

VOLUME 29 ★ NUMBER 24 FEBRUARY 12, 2010

THE AUSTIN

CHRONICLE

NEWS Primary Intelligence: Local Races

FOOD Chinese New Year Roars In

SCREENS 'Shock Festival': Swede Emotion

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twin peaks

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JOHN ANDERSON

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(Austin TX) David Fonseca (Lisbon PORTUGAL) 4th Pyramid (Toronto ON) Bernard Fowler (NY NY) David Francey (Toronto ON) Francis (Borlange SWEDEN) Robert Francis (Los Angeles CA) Doces Cariocas (Rio de Janeiro BRAZIL) Doll and The Kicks (Brighton ENGLAND) Dolly (Tokyo JAPAN) The Dolomites (Stevhen lancu) (Monster Island JAPAN) Donnis (Atlanta FL) Dosh (Minneapolis CA) Luke Doucet (Winnipeg MB) Rose Elinor Dougall (Manchester ENGLAND) The Downbeat 5 (Boston MA) The Downtown Festival (Fairfax VA) Downtown Ruler's Club (Austin TX) Daniel Francis Doyle (Austin TX) DP (Hong Kong HONG KONG) Drive-By Truckers (Athens GA) Drive like Maria (Hasselt BELGIUM)	Gagakirise (Tokyo JAPAN) Gustavo Galindo (Los Angeles CA) The Ganjias (Santiago CHILE) Gordon Gano and The Ryan Brothers (NY NY) Garotas Suecas (Sao Paulo BRAZIL) David Garza (Austin TX) The Gates Of Slumber (Indianapolis IN) Rebecca Gars (Providence RI) Nathan Gaunt (Perth WA) Gay Witch Abortion (Minneapolis MN) Geekz (Tokyo JAPAN) General Elektriks (PARIS FRANCE) General Fiasco (Belfast UK-N. IRELAND) Genia (London ENGLAND) Gerald G (Austin TX) Chris Gerniottis (Corpus Christi TX) Get Busy Committee (Santa Monica CA) Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly (London ENGLAND) The Ghost of a Thousand (Brighton ENGLAND) Ghost Storys (Kobenhavn N DENMARK) The Ghost Songs (Austin TX) Freddie Gibbs (Gary IN) Girts from Enola (Harrisonburg VA) Gigamesh (Minneapolis MN) Colin Gilmore (Austin TX) The Gin Riots (London ENGLAND) Pepi Ginsberg (Brooklyn NY) Girl in a Coma (San Antonio TX) Girls Guns and Glory (Boston MA) Giulia y los Tellarini (Barcelona SPAIN) Givers (Lafayette LA) Glint (Grandview NY) The Glitch Mob (Los Angeles CA) Gloria Cycles (Brighton ENGLAND) Glossary (Murrefsboro TN) Jimmy Guccione (NY NY) Go Chic (Taipei TAIWAN) Goes Cube (Brooklyn NY) Rosi Golan (NY NY) Golden Bear (Austin TX) Golden Boys (Austin TX) The Golden Dogs (Toronto ON) The Golden Filter (Richmond ENGLAND) Golden Triangle (Brooklyn NY) Goldheart Assembly (London ENGLAND) Robert Gomez (Denton TX) Gong Myoung (Seoul KOREA) Goobar and the Peas (Detroit MI) The Good The Bad (Copenhagen DENMARK) Matthew Good (Vancouver BC) Good Shoes (London ENGLAND) Goons Of Doom (Sydney NSW) Gowns (Oakland CA) Grand Analog (Winnipeg MB) Grand Atlantic (Brisbane QLD) Grandchildren (Philadelphia PA) Grand Hallway (Seattle WA) Graves of Valor (Columbia SC) Adam Green (NY NY) GreenFuz (Bridgeport TX) Moe Green (Vallejo CA) Grimy Styles (Austin TX) Parrty Gripp (Santa Barbara CA) The Grip Weeds (New Brunswick NJ) The Growlers (Costa Mesa CA) Grync (Seattle WA) Guadalupe Plata (Ubeda SPAIN) Guitar Shorty (Harlingen TX) Gum (Edmond OK) Ha Ha Tonka (Springfield MO) Hammer No More The Fingers (Durham NC) Darren Hanlon (Sydney NSW) Gudrid Hansdottir (Torshavn FAROE ISLANDS) Happy Birthday (Brattleboro VT) The Happy Hollows (Los Angeles CA) Hosia Hargrove (Austin TX) Harlem (Austin TX) Harper Simon (Los Angeles CA) Grant Hart (St Paul MN) Hauschka (Dusseldorf GERMANY) Mayer Hawthorne & The County (Ann Arbor MI) Headress (Austin TX) The Heavenly States (Oakland CA) Hemoptysis (Tempe AZ) The Henry Clay People (Glendale CA) Richard Henry (Austin TX) Here We Go Magic (Brooklyn NY) Hermano L (Barcelona SPAIN) Hey Monday (West Palm Beach FL) Hey Rosetta! (St John's NF) Hickoids (Austin TX)	Hifiklub (Toulon FRANCE) High On Fire (Oakland CA) Matt Hires (Tampa FL) Hogni (Copenhagen FAROE ISLANDS) Hole (NY NY) Hollerado (Manotic ON) Holy Fuck (E Toronto ON) Holy Grail (Los Angeles CA) Holy Rolling Empire (Tucson AZ) Home Blitz (Princeton NJ) Homeboy Sandman (NY NY) Home Video (Brooklyn NY) honeyhoney (Los Angeles CA) The Hong Kong Blood Opera (Hermosillo, Sonora MEXICO) The Hood Internet (Chicago IL) Warren Hood (Austin TX) Hopewell (Brooklyn NY) Hot Panda (Edmonton AB) The Hounds Below (Detroit MI) House of Broken Promises (Indio CA) Howl (Providence RI) Howlies (Atlanta GA) Hudson Mohawke (Glasgow SCOTLAND) Huecco (Madrid SPAIN) Hurricane Bells (Brooklyn NY) William Hut (Bergen NORWAY) Hyperpotamus (Madrid SPAIN) Hypnogaia (Hollywood CA) Hystoic Vein (Mieshinchou JAPAN) Idiot Pilot (Bellingham WA) I Fight Dragons (Chicago IL) iLL-Literacy (Oakland CA) I Love You But I've Chosen Darkness (Austin TX) Imagine Dragons (Las Vegas NV) Inca Ore (Oakland CA) Instiga (Campinas BRAZIL) Instrumenti (Riga LATVIA) The Intelligence (Seattle WA) Intimate Stranger (Santiago CHILE) Invasion (London ENGLAND) Invincible (Detroit MI) The Invisible (London ENGLAND) Iron Age (Austin TX) I See Stars (Warren MI) It's True! (Omaha NE) Ivan & Alyosha (Seattle WA) J. Period (Brooklyn NY) Jacob's Ladder (Miami Beach FL) Sarah Jaffe (Dallas TX) The Bruce James Soultet (Austin TX) Kelley James (Laguna Niguel CA) Laura Jansen (Los Angeles CA) Japandroids (Vancouver BC) Japanther (Brooklyn NY) Javelin (Brooklyn NY) Jay Bizzzy (Halifax NS) Jazz One (Austin TX) Jazzus Lizard (Austin TX) Nikki Jean (St Paul MN) Nat Jenkins (London ENGLAND) Jen Wood (Seattle WA) Jern Eye (Oakland CA) Stephen Jerzak (La Crosse WI) Jets Overhead (Victoria BC) Jinnyoops! (Jinnyville JAPAN) jj (Göteborg SWEDEN) J Kapone (Austin TX) Joan of Arc (Chicago IL) John Dear Mowing Club (Den Haag THE NETHERLANDS) The John Steel Singers (Glebe NSW) Danko Jones (Lund SWEDEN) The Jim Jones Revue (London ENGLAND) Matthew Perryman Jones (Nashville TN) Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings (Brooklyn NY) Jookabox (Indianapolis IN) Sass Jordan (Toronto ON) The Joys (London ON) J Roc (Los Angeles CA) Jukebox the Ghost (Washington DC) Julia Says (Sao Paulo BRAZIL) Junius (Boston MA) Jupiter One (Brooklyn NY) Kaiser Cartel (Brooklyn NY) Kam Moye aka Supastition (Charlotte NC) Karnivool (Perth WA) Kashmir (Copenhagen DENMARK) kasms (London ENGLAND) Kaspar (Helsinki FINLAND) Katie V (London ENGLAND) Kava Kava (Huddersfield ENGLAND) K-Drama (Cincinnati OH) Zoe Keating (Camp Meeker CA) Keelay and The Park with Ragen Fykes (San Francisco CA)	Tommy Keene (Los Angeles CA) Jon Kennedy (Bristol ENGLAND) Kev Brown (Landover MD) K.Flay (Los Angeles CA) Kid British (Manchester ENGLAND) Kid Congo Powers + Pink Monkey Birds (Washington DC) Kid Dakota (Minneapolis MN) Kidz In The Hall (Chicago IL) Kiernan McMullan (Limerick IRELAND) Kilians (Grevenbroich GERMANY) Killer Mike (Atlanta GA) Kill It Kid (Bath ENGLAND) Kill the Client (Dallas TX) Kill The Noise (Los Angeles CA) King of Conspiracy (Paris FRANCE) King of Spain (Tampa FL) Kings Go Forth (Milwaukee WI) Kingston (Auckland NEW ZEALAND) Dawn Kinnard (State College PA) Maurice Kirya (Kampala ZIMBABWE) The Kissaway Trail (Odense DENMARK) Kiss Kiss (Sleepy Hollow NY) Kittens Ablaze (Brooklyn NY) Jennifer Knapp (Nashville TN) Solange Knowles (NY NY) Kona (Kailua HI) Kopecky Family Band (Nashville TN) Kosha Dillz (Edison NJ) Kotchy (Brooklyn NY) Wayne Kramer (Los Angeles CA) The Krayolas (Austin TX) Kreisor (NY NY) howard kremer (Los Angeles CA) Kuadrmana (Shiraz IIRAN) Miles Kurosky (Ex-Beulah) (Portland OR) L.A.B. (Novo Hamburgo BRAZIL) Lady Dottie and The Diamonds (San Diego CA) Landmine Marathon (Phoenix AZ) Mads Langer (London ENGLAND) La Pat re Rose (Montreal QC) LA Riots (Los Angeles CA) La Santa Cecilia (Los Angeles CA) Last Days Of April (Stockholm SWEDEN) Last Man Standing (London ENGLAND) La Strada (Brooklyn NY) Jim Lauderdale (Nashville TN) The Laughing (Austin TX) Laurel Collective (ENGLAND) The Law (Dundee SCOTLAND) Lawrence Arabia (Christchurch NEW ZEALAND) L.A.X (Austin TX) Layabouts (Madrid SPAIN) League510 (Oakland CA) The League Of Extraordinary G'z (Austin TX) Alessandra Leao (Recife BRAZIL) Dylan LeBlanc (Shreveport LA) Jonna Lee (Stockholm SWEDEN) Kyle Lee (Houston TX) Vander Lee (Belo Horizonte BRAZIL) Le Loup (Washington DC) Dominique Leone (Oakland CA) Les Psycho Riders (Centre-Sud North QC) Les Savvy Fap (Brooklyn NY) Let's Wrestle (London ENGLAND) The Lighthouse and the Whaler (Cleveland OH) Lights (Toronto ON) Linda Kiraly (Budapest HUNGARY) Lindsey (London ENGLAND) Linfinity (NY NY) Linus Of Hollywood (Los Angeles CA) Lissie (Ojai CA) Little Black Dress (Dallas TX) Little Brazil (Omaha NE) Little Fish (Oxford ENGLAND) Little Girls (Toronto ON) Liturgy (Brooklyn NY) Local Natives (Los Angeles CA) LoCur (Oakland CA) The Lonely Forest (Anacortes WA) Bobby Long (London ENGLAND) Longital (Bratislava SLOVAK REPUBLIC) Looproot Rockers (Lund SWEDEN) The Orchidee D'Hawai (Chambery-Rhones Alpes FRANCE) Lord Jeff (Northampton MA) The Lords Of Altamont (Burbank CA) Los Amparito (Lomas Del Alamo MEXICO) Los Lonely Boys (San Angelo TX) Los Planetas (Madrid SPAIN) Lo-Star (London ENGLAND) Los Texas Wranglers (Austin TX) LoveLikeFire (San Francisco CA)
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The Lovely Eggs (Lancaster ENGLAND)
The Lovely Feathers (Montreal QC)
Love of Everything (Chicago IL)
Unni Lovlid (Oslo NORWAY)
Lovers (London ENGLAND)
The Low Anthem (Providence RI)
The Low Frequency In Stereo
(Haugesund NORWAY)
Low Line Cacker (Austin TX)
Lowood (Stockholm SWEDEN)
Loxsly (Austin TX)
L.Stadt (Lodz POLAND)
Lucky Pineapple (Louisville KY)
Lucy And The Popsonics (Brasilia BRAZIL)
Luder (Detroit MI)
Lullabye Arkestra (Toronto CANADA)
Corb Lund (Edmonton AB)
Colin MacIntyre (aka Muil Historical
Society) (Isle of Mull SCOTLAND)
Polly Mackey & the Pleasure Principle
(Wrexham WALES)
Mackintosh Braun (Portland OR)
Catherine MacLellan (Summerside PE)
Madame Recamier (San Angel Inn
MEXICO)
Mad Juana (NY NY)
Audra Mae (Los Angeles CA)
Mae Day (Detroit MI)
Magic Magic (Boston MA)
The Magic Numbers (London ENGLAND)
Magic Wands (Nashville TN)
Magno aka Magnificent (Houston TX)
The Main Street Gospel (Columbus OH)
Major Lazer (Philadelphia PA)
Make the Girl Dance (Paris FRANCE)
The Maldives (Seattle WA)
Malente (Essen GERMANY)
Jesse Malin (NY NY)
Natalia Mallo (Sao Paulo BRAZIL)
Danny Malone (Austin TX)
Maluca (NY NY)
Mammoth Grinder (Austin TX)
Maneja Beto (Austin TX)
Man or Astro-Man? (Auburn AL)
Mantler (Toronto ON)
Mantles (San Francisco CA)
Maps & Atlases (Chicago IL)
Marah (Tempe AZ)
Julia Marshall (Olisztyn POLAND)
Marco Polo & Torae (Brooklyn NY)
Marianchi El Bronx (Los Angeles CA)
Marina & The Diamonds (London ENGLAND)
Anya Marina (Los Angeles CA)
Carolyn Mark (Victoria BC)
Josh Martinez (Vancouver BC)
Maruosa (Tokyo JAPAN)
J Mascis (Amherst MA)
Matchcuts (Tehran IRAN)
Math the Band (New Bedford MA)
Melissa McClelland (Hamilton ON)
Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (Austin TX)
The Megaphonic Thrift (Bergen NORWAY)
Megarex (Sao Paulo BRAZIL)
Meiko (Roberta GA)
Meneo (Barcelona SPAIN)
Jeremy Messersmith (St Paul MN)
Mi and Lau (Valencia SPAIN)
Mickey Fackz (Bronx NY)
Middle Class Rut (Sacramento CA)
The Middle East (Townsville QLD)
Middle Finger Salute (Blackburn
ENGLAND)
Middleman (Leeds ENGLAND)
Midlake (Denton TX)
Migas (Austin TX)
The Mighty Stef (Dublin IRELAND)
Mikky Ekko (Nashville TN)
Kate Miller-Heidke (Melbourne VIC)
Miniature Tigers (Phoenix AZ)
Mini Mansions (Los Angeles CA)
Minipop (Corte Madera CA)
The Minutes (Dublin IRELAND)
Holly Miranda (Brooklyn NY)
Vince Mira (Seattle WA)
Miss Derringer (Los Angeles CA)
Miss Li (Stockholm SWEDEN)
Mistress Barbara LIVE With Girls On A
Ducati (Montreal QC)
Mistah F.A.B. (Oakland CA)
Mittens on Strings (Chicago IL)
Mixtapes & Cellmates (Stockholm
SWEDEN)
Miz Metro (NY NY)
Modern Skirts (Athens GA)
Moloe (San Antonio TX)
Lucas Molandes (Austin TX)
Pete Molinari (Chatham ENGLAND)
Monarchs (Austin TX)
Moneypenny (Chicago IL)
MonicaBlaire (Detroit MI)
Michael Monroe (Helsinki FINLAND)
Ruth Moody (Winnipeg MB)
The Moondogs (Seattle WA)
Moon Duo (San Francisco CA)
Daniel Martin Moore/Ben Sollee
(Lexington KY)

Ian Moore (Seattle WA)
Pedro Morais (BRAZIL)
Jim Moray (Bristol ENGLAND)
Moreland & Arbuckle (Wichita KS)
More Or Les (Toronto ON)
Morning Benders (Berkeley CA)
PJ Morton (Conyers GA)
The Mother Hips (San Francisco CA)
The Mother Truckers (Austin TX)
Moth Fight (Austin TX)
Mountain Man (Bennington VT)
Mount Carmel (Columbus OH)
Mouse and the Traps (Tyler TX)
Movits! (Lulea SWEDEN)
Moxine (Sao Paulo BRAZIL)
Mozella (Los Angeles CA)
Mr Sicc (Auckland NEW ZEALAND)
Muchuu (Herefordshire ENGLAND)
Muck and the Mires (Boston MA)
Mark Mulholland (Glasgow SCOTLAND)
Mumiy Troll (Vladivostok RUSSIA)
Munch Munch (Bristol ENGLAND)
Mundo Livre S/A (Recife PE)
Colin Munroe (Toronto ON)
Murmansk (Helsinki FINLAND)
Murs (Los Angeles CA)
My Dad is Dead (Chapel Hill NC)
My Education (Austin TX)
The Mynabirds (Omaha NE)
MyNamelsJohnMichael (New Orleans LA)
My Tiger My Timing (London ENGLAND)
Naam (Brooklyn NY)
Nadastrom (Washington DC)
Nakia & His Southern Cousins (Austin TX)
The Name (Sorocaba BRAZIL)
Nappy Roots (Bowling Green KY)
Jay Nash (Los Angeles CA)
Nawal (Bogota COLOMBIA)
Nebula (Los Angeles CA)
Neon Indian (Austin TX)
Neon Trees (Provo UT)
Nervous Turkey (Tampa FL)
The Nervous Wreckords (San Diego CA)
Julie Neumark (Cincinnati OH)
The New Government (Beirut LEBANON)
New Politics (Kopenhagen NU)
NiCad (Den Haag THE NETHERLANDS)
Erica Nicole (Atlanta GA)
Nive Nielsen (Nuuk GREENLAND)
Night On Earth (Athens GREECE)
Stephanie Nilles (Chicago IL)
Ninjasomik (Brooklyn NY)
9th Wonder (Raleigh-Durham NC)
The Niro (Rome ITALY)
Nobody Beats The Drum (Amsterdam
THE NETHERLANDS)
Noise Beat Propaganda (Mexicali
MEXICO)
The Non (Oklahoma City OK)
Notekillers (Brooklyn NY)
No te va gustar (Montevideo URUGUAY)
The Novas (Dallas TX)
Now On (Los Angeles CA)
Nudzordo (Barcelona CT)
Jackie Oates (Exeter ENGLAND)
Obi Best (Los Angeles CA)
Oddissee (Washington DC)
Denitia Odigie (Nashville TN)
OFF With Their Heads (Minneapolis MN)
Of Verona (Mandi Perkins)
(Los Angeles CA)
Oh Mercy (Balaclava VIC)
Oh No Ono (Aalborg DENMARK)
Okamoto's (Tokyo JAPAN)
OK Sweetheart (Denton TX)
Ola Podrasta (Austin TX)
Omodaka (Tokyo JAPAN)
One Be Lo (Detroit MI)
14KT (Ann Arbor MI)
One Night Only (Helmsley ENGLAND)
1001 Nights Orchestra (Austin TX)
Onli (Tel Aviv ISRAEL)
Orba Squara (NY NY)
Orchid and Hound (San Francisco CA)
Orgone (North Hollywood CA)
Orphaned Land (Jerusalem ISRAEL)
Ortolan (Rivieres NJ)
Overflow (Koprivnica CROATIA)
Oy (Berlin GERMANY)
Ozomatli (Los Angeles CA)
The Pack A.D. (Vancouver BC)
Pack Of Wolves (Austin TX)
Rich Pagano + the sugarCane Cups
(NY NY)
Pagoda (Brooklyn NY)
The Pains of Being Pure at Heart
(NY NY)
Paleface (Concord NC)
Palenke Soutlirbe (Los Angeles CA)
Paleo (Brooklyn NY)
:papeirutz (Vila do Conde PORTUGAL)
Papier Tigre (Nantes FRANCE)
The Paranoids (Beirut LEBANON)
Parlour Steps (Vancouver BC)
Parlour (Montreal QC)
Charlie Parr (Duluth MN)

The Parties (San Francisco CA)
Partners N Crime (New Orleans LA)
Maren Parusel (San Diego CA)
Past Lives (Seattle WA)
Patafunk (Caracas URUGUAY)
Sylvia Patricia (Salvador BRAZIL)
Peasant (Doylstown PA)
Pedro Moraes (BRAZIL)
Peelander-Z (New York NY)
The Peebles (Montreal QC)
Julie Peel (Montreal QC)
Peligrosa All-Stars (Austin TX)
Bird Peterson (Sacramento CA)
Peter Wolf Crier (Minneapolis MN)
Pets With Pets (Brunswick VIC)
Aaron Pfennig (Brooklyn NY)
Phantogram (Saratoga Springs NY)
Phranchyze (Austin TX)
Pictureplane (Denver CO)
Pierced Arrows (Portland OR)
Pigeon Religion (Phoenix AZ)
Pimpbot (Waipahu HI)
The Pines (St Paul MN)
Colin Munroe (Toronto ON)
The Pinholes (Singapore SINGAPORE)
Pink Nasty (Austin TX)
Pirate Love (Oslo NORWAY)
Pivot (Sydney NSW)
P.K. 14 (Beijing CHINA)
Plants and Animals (Montreal QC)
Plastic Crimewave Sound (Chicago IL)
Please The Trees (Prague CZECH
REPUBLIC)
Pocahunted (Los Angeles CA)
Poirier ft MC Zulu (Montreal QC)
Steve Poltz (San Diego CA)
Polyphase (Panama PANAMA)
Pomegranates (Cincinnati OH)
Pong (Austin TX)
The Pope County Bootleggers
(Little Rock AR)
Pop Shuvit (Kuala Lumpur MALAYSIA)
Brian Posehn (Los Angeles CA)
Mike Posner (Southfield MI)
Powerplant - Joby Burgess (London
ENGLAND)
PowerSolo (Aarhus DENMARK)
Andy Pratt (Amesbury MA)
Pree (Washington DC)
The Present (NY NY)
Pretty Lights (Fort Collins CO)
Sean Price (Brooklyn NY)
Priestess (Montreal QC)
Princeton (Eagle Rock CA)
Profetas (Columbia COLOMBIA)
Project Trio (Brooklyn NY)
Promise (Mississauga ON)
Matt Pryor (Lawrence KS)
Psalm One (Chicago IL)
Psychic Reality (San Francisco CA)
Pue Pug (Chicago IL)
Pulled Apart By Horses (Leeds ENGLAND)
Joe Purdy (North West AR)
Chris Pureka (Northampton MA)
Pustki (Warszawa POLAND)
Pyramididd (Portland OR)
QJAA (Barcelona SPAIN)
Quantic and his Combo Barbaro (Cali
COLOMBIA)
Quarteto Olinda (Olinda BRAZIL)
Quasi (Portland OR)
Quack For Fire (Toronto ON)
Question? (San Antonio TX)
Radio Radio (Montreal QC)
Rauberhohle (Berlin GERMANY)
Rafter (San Diego CA)
Random aka Mega Ran (Phoenix AZ)
Random Axe (Brooklyn NY)
Random Impulse (London ENGLAND)
Ratas del Vaticano (Monterrey MEXICO)
Nathaniel Rateliff (Denver CO)
Dave Rave (Hamilton ON)
The Raveonettes (Copenhagen
DENMARK)
Reading Rainbow (Philadelphia PA)
Real Estate (Ridgewood NJ)
Real Vocal String Quartet (Berkeley CA)
Rebelle (Den Haag THE NETHERLANDS)
Red Bacteria Vacuum (Osaka JAPAN)
Red Cortez (Echo Park CA)
Christopher Rees (Cardiff WALES)
Tommy Reilly (Glasgow SCOTLAND)
Resplander (Lima PERU)
Rhymefest (Houston TX)
Riddim Saunter (Tokyo JAPAN)
The Rifle Volunteer (London ENGLAND)
The Right Ons (Madrid SPAIN)
Alicia Machado (Belo Horizonte BRAZIL)
Rival Schools (NY NY)
Riverboat Gamblers (Austin TX)
The River Raid (Recife BRAZIL)
Matthew Robinson (Austin TX)
Miles Benjamin Anthony Robinson
(Brooklyn NY)
Smokey Robin (Los Angeles CA)
Brisa Roche (Paris FRANCE)
The Rocketbogs (Austin TX)

Rock of Heltah Skeltah (Brooklyn NY)
Rockwell Knuckles (St Louis MO)
RoCola Bacalao (Sangolqui ECUADOR)
Carrie Rodriguez (Austin TX)
Rogue Wave (San Francisco CA)
Romance On A Rocketship (Lebanon MO)
Benjamin Rose Band (Cologne GERMANY)
Peter Rosenberg (NY NY)
Royal Bangs (Knoxville TN)
Roy Rieck & the Medley Band (Tel Aviv
ISRAEL)
R.Sigma (Rio de Janeiro BRAZIL)
Amber Rubarth (Brooklyn NY)
Rubik (Helsinki FINLAND)
Ruby Isle (Minneapolis MN)
Rumspringa (Los Angeles CA)
The Rural Alberta Advantage
(Edmonton AB)
The Russian Futurists (Toronto ON)
Ruste Juxx (Brooklyn NY)
Justin Rutledge (Toronto ON)
Rwake (Little Rock AR)
Joey Ryan (Los Angeles CA)
Sabrina (Kaneohe HI)
Saint Motel (Los Angeles CA)
Salome (Virginia VA)
Samantha is The Highway Girl
(Atlanta GA)
SambaDa (Santa Cruz CA)
Wes Sanders (Austin TX)
The Sandwitches (San Francisco CA)
San Saba County (Austin TX)
Sasquatch (Los Angeles CA)
Savoir Adore (Brooklyn NY)
Say Hi (Seattle WA)
Scale The Summit (Houston TX)
Scanners (London ENGLAND)
Scars on 45 (Leeds ENGLAND)
Schaffer the Darklord (NY NY)
Sebastien Schuller (Paris FRANCE)
Scorpion Child (Austin TX)
Scorpio Rising (Austin TX)
The Sea (Newquay ENGLAND)
Sean Bones (Brooklyn NY)
The Second Grace (Palermo ITALY)
The Seedy Seeds (Cincinnati OH)
Serena-Maneesh (Oslo NORWAY)
Serengeti (Chicago CA)
Serious Sam Barrett (Leeds ENGLAND)
Sex With Strangers (Vancouver BC)
Sex Worker (San Francisco CA)
Shapes Have Fangs (Austin TX)
She & Him (Los Angeles CA)
Sheen Bros (Brooklyn NY)
She Keeps Bees (Brooklyn NY)
Shellshag (Brooklyn NY)
Samantha Shelton (Los Angeles CA)
Sherlock's Daughter (Sydney NSW)
Chris Shiftlett (Los Angeles CA)
Shine (Paris FRANCE)
Shit And Shine (London ENGLAND)
Shwayze (Malibu CA)
Silver Pines (Austin TX)
Stereoskyline (Long Island NY)
Steriogram (Auckland NEW ZEALAND)
Still Flyin' (San Francisco CA)
Alina Simone (Brooklyn NY)
Jason Simon (Los Angeles CA)
Sisters Morales (San Antonio TX)
Sireen Deluxe (Austin TX)
65daysofstatic (Sheffield ENGLAND)
60 Tigres (Monterrey MEXICO)
Noush Skaugen (London ENGLAND)
Skybox (Independence MO)
Skizoo (Brooklyn NY)
Sleepy Sun (San Francisco CA)
Slimmy (Paris FRANCE)
Slim Cessna's Auto Club (Denver CO)
Slow Club (London ENGLAND)
Tony Sly (San Jose CA)
Small Black (Brooklyn NY)
Smif N Wessun (Brooklyn NY)
April Smith and the Great Picture Show
(Brooklyn NY)
Bisco Smith (Brooklyn NY)
Drew Smith's Lonely Choir (Austin TX)
John Smith (Liverpool ENGLAND)
Sweet Apple (Cleveland OH)
Swimming (Nottingham ENGLAND)
Swimming With Dolphins (Cambridge MN)
Systema Solar (Taganga COLOMBIA)
Tacks, the Boy Disaster (Austin TX)
M. Takara 3 (Guarulhos BRAZIL)
Takashi Kamide (Nara JAPAN)
Sofia Talvik (Stockholm SWEDEN)
Tanlines (Brooklyn NY)
Tape Deck Mountain (San Diego CA)
Tarantist! (Tehran IRAN)
T Bird and the Breaks (Austin TX)
Team Facefitt (NY NY)
Telegraph Canyon (Fort Worth TX)
Telephunken (Madrid SPAIN)
The Tenant (Austin TX)
Ten Bears (Manchester ENGLAND)
Ten Out of Tenn (Nashville TN)
Adam Tensta (Stockholm SWEDEN)
Rochelle Terrell (Austin TX)
Somi (Many Dynamos (St Louis MO)
Somi (NY NY)

SXSW MUSIC FEST WRISTBAND SALES DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON!

- All advance wristband sales will be online at **wristband.sxsw.com**.
- In this first-come, first-served sale for Austin area residents only, wristbands are \$129 (includes sales tax). This is the same price as 2009.
- You will pick up your wristband at the event (March 16-20), and will need to place it on your wrist at the time of pick-up.
- You can only buy one wristband for yourself and one for a friend whose name and email you must provide at time of purchase.
- All purchasers must use a credit card with a local billing address. The name on the credit card must be one of the wristband users.
- Wristbands will be put on sale on short notice, and will be available online until they sell out. Check the Austin Chronicle next week for the date they go on sale.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: wristband.sxsw.com

Son Lux (NY NY)
Sonny & The Sunsets (San Francisco CA)
Sonodaband (Ebisu JAPAN)
BettySoo (Austin TX)
Rosalie Sorrels (Boise ID)
Soulico (Tel Aviv ISRAEL)
The Sour Notes (Austin TX)
So What (The Hague THE NETHERLANDS)
Speak (Austin TX)
Angelo Spencer (Olympia WA)
Spindrift (Los Angeles CA)
Spleen United (Copenhagen DENMARK)
Spoon (Austin TX)
The Spring Standards (NY NY)
Spring Tigers (Oakland CA)
Nico Stai (Los Angeles CA)
Standard Fare (Sheffield ENGLAND)
Star & Micey (Memphis TN)
Sabrina Starke (Amsterdam
THE NETHERLANDS)
Stars of Track and Field (NY NY)
St Deluxe (Glasgow SCOTLAND)
Steel Train (Teaneck NJ)
Stella By Starlight (Durham NC)
Katie Stelmans (Toronto ON)
The Steps (Austin TX)
StereHeroes (Les Gorguettes FRANCE)
Stereoskyline (Long Island NY)
Steriogram (Auckland NEW ZEALAND)
Still Flyin' (San Francisco CA)
Stone River Boys (Austin TX)
Straight Lines (Pontytridd WALES)
Strait Laces (Belfast NI IRELAND)
The Strange Boys (Austin TX)
Trickster City (London ENGLAND)
Suckers (Brooklyn NY)
Suidakra (Dusseldorf GERMANY)
Summer Cats (Melbourne VIC)
The Summer Wardrobe (Austin TX)
Sun Araw (Los Angeles CA)
Superdrag (Knoxville TN)
Superfascia (Buenos Aires ARGENTINA)
Superlito (Cali COLOMBIA)
Super Soul Shakedown Djs
(San Antonio TX)
Surf City (Auckland NEW ZEALAND)
Surfer Blood (West Palm Beach FL)
The Surrender (San Diego CA)
Surrounded (Malmo SWEDEN)
Sweet Apple (Cleveland OH)
Swimming (Nottingham ENGLAND)
Swimming With Dolphins (Cambridge MN)
Systema Solar (Taganga COLOMBIA)
Tacks, the Boy Disaster (Austin TX)
M. Takara 3 (Guarulhos BRAZIL)
Takashi Kamide (Nara JAPAN)
Sofia Talvik (Stockholm SWEDEN)
Tanlines (Brooklyn NY)
Tape Deck Mountain (San Diego CA)
Tarantist! (Tehran IRAN)
T Bird and the Breaks (Austin TX)
Team Facefitt (NY NY)
Telegraph Canyon (Fort Worth TX)
Telephunken (Madrid SPAIN)
The Tenant (Austin TX)
Ten Bears (Manchester ENGLAND)
Ten Out of Tenn (Nashville TN)
Adam Tensta (Stockholm SWEDEN)
Rochelle Terrell (Austin TX)
Somi (Many Dynamos (St Louis MO)
Somi (NY NY)

The Terror Pigeon Dance Revolt!
(Purchase NY)
Terry Poison (Tel Aviv ISRAEL)
Texas Eastside Kings (Austin TX)
Texas Tornados (San Antonio TX)
That Ghost (Santa Rosa CA)
Thee Vicars (Bury St Edmunds ENGLAND)
The Rubies (From The Emeralds)
(Yokohama JAPAN)
These United States (Lexington KY)
The Zeros (Chula Vista CA)
Think About Life (Montreal QC)
This Bike is a Pipe Bomb (Pensacola FL)
This Town Needs Guns (Oxford
ENGLAND)
This Will Destroy You (Austin TX)
Those Darlins (Murfreesboro TN)
Thrift Store Cowboys (Lubbock TX)
Throttlerod (Richmond VA)
Through the Sparks (Birmingham AL)
Thunder Power (Omaha NE)
Tides Of Man (Tampa FL)
Tigercity (Brooklyn NY)
Tiger! Shit! Tiger! Tiger! (Scafali di
Foligno ITALY)
Anita Tijoux (Santiago CHILE)
Timber Timbre (Toronto ON)
Timbuktu (Lund SWEDEN)
Tinsel Teeth (Providence RI)
Title Tracks (Washington DC)
Titus Andronicus (Glen Rock NJ)
Tizzy Bac (Taipei TAIWAN)
Todd (London ENGLAND)
Tombs (Brooklyn NY)
Tone (DC) (Washington DC)
Tone (Denmark) (Aalborg DENMARK)
Toro Y Moi (Columbia SC)
Tory Horsec (Cardiff WALES)
Trae Tha Truth (Houston TX)
Transfer (San Diego CA)
Trash Talk (Sacramento CA)
Treasure Fingers (Brooklyn NY)
Treetop Flyers (London ENGLAND)
Trembling Bells (Glasgow SCOTLAND)
Trendsetting DJ Knowledge (Austin TX)
TRE9 (Houston TX)
Trespassers William (Seattle WA)
The Trews (Antigonish NS)
Triple Cobra (San Francisco CA)
The Trishas (Austin TX)
TRUTHLIVE (Berkeley CA)
Truth Universal (New Orleans LA)
Tuh-nie & Gnaws (Austin TX)
TV Torso (Austin TX)
Twin Atlantic (Glasgow SCOTLAND)
Twin Tigers (Athens GA)
2AM Club (Hollywood CA)
Two Star Symphony (Houston TX)
Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights
(Dallas TX)
Ty Segall (San Francisco CA)
Uffie (Paris FRANCE)
The Uglyuist (Oklahoma City OK)
Ume (Austin TX)
Uncle Lucius (Austin TX)
The Unfinished Sympathy (Barcelona
SPAIN)
U-N-I (Hawthorne CA)
Unicorn Kid (Fife SCOTLAND)
The Unthanks (Newcastle ENGLAND)

Unwed Sailor (Tulsa OK)
U.S. Christmas (Marion NC)
Useless ID (Tel Aviv ISRAEL)
Uvilov (Monterrey MEXICO)
Vadoinmessico (London ENGLAND)
Vallejo (Austin TX)
Wallace Vanborn (Ghent BELGIUM)
Vandaveer (Lexington KY)
David Vandervelve (Nashville TN)
Sharon van Etten (Hampton NY)
Maldita Vecindad y Los Hijos del Quinto
Patio (Mexico City MEXICO)
Suzanne Vega (NY NY)
The Veils (Bath ENGLAND)
Venice is Sinking (Athens GA)
Ventilader (Mexico City MEXICO)
Venus Flugtrap (Den Haag
THE NETHERLANDS)
Verona (Caracas VENEZUELA)
The Very Best (NY NY)
Via Tania (Elizabeth Bay NSW)
Vicente Gago (Circuito Museos MEXICO)
Videohippos (Baltimore MD)
Villagers (Dublin IRELAND)
Violsens (NY NY)
Vitera (Austin TX)
Viva City (Newcastle ENGLAND)
Viv Albertine (London ENGLAND)
Voivod (Montreal QC)
Volovan (Monterrey MEXICO)
VoodooSoulljahs (Bogota COLOMBIA)
Rocky Votolato (Seattle WA)
Vreid (Hvalstad NORWAY)
Waco Brothers (Chicago IL)
Miho Wada (Auckland NEW ZEALAND)
The Wailin' Yeahs (Bury St Edmunds
ENGLAND)
Waldorf (Ghent BELGIUM)
The Walls (Dublin IRELAND)
Warpaint (Los Angeles CA)
Washington (Brisbane QLD)
Imaad Wasif (Los Angeles CA)
Watershed (Johannesburg
SOUTH AFRICA)
The Watson Twins (Los Angeles CA)
Wave Machines (Liverpool ENGLAND)
The Wave Pictures (London ENGLAND)
Wax Fang (Louisville KY)
Sean Wayland (Brooklyn NY)
Sydney Wayser (Brooklyn NY)
We Are Country Mice (NY NY)
We Are Scientists (NY NY)
We Are Wolves (Montreal QC)
Weedeater (Wilmington NC)
We Fell To Earth (London ENGLAND)
Josh Weller (London ENGLAND)
Westside Horns featuring The Moeller
Brothers (San Antonio TX)
Wet Hair (Iowa City IA)
We Were Promised Jetpacks
(Edinburgh SCOTLAND)
We Were The States (Murfreesboro TN)
The Whigs (Athens GA)
White (Beijing CHINA)
Uncle Lucia Crime Club (Antwerpen
BELGIUM)
White Ghost Shivers (Austin TX)
White Mice (Providence RI)
Ralph White (Austin TX)

White Rose Movement (London
ENGLAND)
Glenn White's Sacred Machines (NY NY)
The Whatsundays (Edmonton AB)
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The Young Republic (Nashville TN)
Young Sid (Auckland NEW ZEALAND)
Jennu Owen Youngs (Brooklyn NY)
The Young Veins (Los Angeles CA)
Your Twenties (London ENGLAND)
You Say Party! We Say Die!
(Abbotsford BC)
Yppah (Houston TX)
Yukon Blonde (Kelowna BC)
Yuna (Malaysia MALAYSIA)
Hindi Zahra (Paris FRANCE)
Jonneine Zapata (Los Angeles CA)
Zaza (NY NY)
Zei (Kuala Lumpur MALAYSIA)
Zeale (Austin TX)
Zillionaire (Tampa FL)
Zlam Dunk (San Marcos TX)
Zolar X (Los Angeles CA)
Zona Tango (Buenos Aires ARGENTINA)
Zs (Brooklyn NY)
Zun Zun Equi (Bristol ENGLAND)

*Everything subject to change.
Check sxsw.com for updates.*

The Long Scream

The endless Republican nightmare casts its shadow on health care reform

BY LOUIS BLACK

“Andalucia when can I see you
When it is snowing out again
Farmer John wants you
Louder and softer closer and nearer
Then again”
— John Cale, “Andalucia”

Leadbelly Is a Hard Name

“And the hard name of a harder man

...

I saw Leadbelly get up in the morning, wash, shave, put on his bath robe, and Martha would stand up in her tall way and make me get shaved, bathed, washed, dressed, while she cooked Leadbelly his breakfast on her charcoal flat top stove. The stove was older than me, older than Martha, but not any older than Leadbelly.

...

His guitar was not like a friend of his, not like a woman, not like some of the kids, not like a man you know. But it was a thing that would cause people to walk over to where he is, a thing that made sounds that gave his own words richer sounds, and would give him his way to show his people around him all of the things that he felt inside and out. He would play the tones on the music box and then he would tell me a story, you a tale, and all of his life history. And he would say and sing it in such words that we could not tell where our own personal life stopped and Leadbelly's started.

He wanted to preach history, his own history, his peoples story, and everybody's history. He wanted to be all kinds of big names, a history speaker, a story teller, a talker, good fast walker, a loud yeller, and the man that was all a big tone.”

— Woody Guthrie, “LEADBELLY is a hard name”

“Where's the great rage of a rocking heart, the high rare true dangerous indignation? Let me persuade more slowly:

The dark has its own light
A son has many fathers.
Stand by a slow stream:
Hear the sigh of what is.
Be a pleased rock
On a plain day.
Waking's
Kissing.
Yes.”

— Theodore Roethke, “O, Thou Opening, O”

I

Daydreaming, I'm lost in a slide show out of my past. Usually, there is just one slide, but sometimes there are a number of them, lacking any order I can discern. I watch: the creek running downhill, with a steam train passing maybe a dozen yards away; I'm lying in a boat on a pond in Massachusetts and standing in the snow by a tree in a town I'd never been to before. I'm ready to call it a day. It's been a long run. My life's been blessed. Not just the American dream but a number of variants of it quite unexpectedly proved to be more than entertaining along the way. But the anger is too much. Not my anger; it is mostly gone. Instead of taking the form of daily explosions, it is now channeled into truly insane dreams where this deep soul's anger is the mildest vein.

It is raining. I put on a vest. And then I get into my raincoat. I walk outside into the rain. It is dawn as I walk out to watch the sun set.

Usually, I've been so very much ahead or behind myself that I'm either watching what happened to me or what might happen, to such an extent even being in my life is being in fiction. This column is a mea culpa, a rending of clothes and a benediction of ashes. (Although maybe this is just a feint and ploy?) What was still is, what is still is, and what isn't still isn't. But now I feel stuck. Stuck in a shadow play. Stuck in a long scream.

II

Let me take a personal moment here to thank those vigilant patriots, determined to uphold the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Well, if not exactly uphold them, then at least to cite them as the source for so many of their thoughts and actions, their marches and the signs they hold. It is not that they quote from them, but that they refer to them as though they are not simple words on paper but contain a tumultuous storm of meaning.

I humble myself before these two-fisted, free-market-loving, private-enterprise-supporting, fiscally conservative Republicans. They are as Horatio at the bridge, the brave few turning back the rampaging many. Except now, often they are holding drinks rather than shields and swords. They are at a backyard cocktail party rather than defending a bridge. Still, arms linked, they stand determined to stop the Obama administration's mad dash toward socialism, communism, and fascism.

page
two

These brave folks are not about to let this country replace Jefferson, Franklin, Hamilton, and Adams with Marx, Lenin, and Stalin. Resisting the Soviet/Red China model of health care offered as reform by the devil's weak and soulless minions is their sworn agenda. Winning back power is the theme. Instead of collectivism and death panels, they offer lots of swell ideas. Okay, once again, maybe some of them are not so swell.

Side by side, they have stood and continue to stand, linked only by their patriotism and gifts from those lobbyists who support them — fighting for the values that once were held dear by every American because they were real and moral values based on God's opinions. They have stopped health care reform in its tracks in the name of God, mercy, and caring.

Hallelujah! Glory be to the hardcore! Honor the tough-minded, uncompromising right! The American health care system isn't broken! So don't try to fix it.

III

Again, the new section begins exactly as the last section ended. The American health care system isn't broken! Except

....

Well, except that, being a misguided liberal, I'm lost in the fog of fuzzy socialist logic, brainwashed by those who hate America. The society is all of us. If there is compassion, commitment, and possibility, well, then we all share the same table. Ignoring the poor, the sick, and the ill is an act of denial. It is much like one conjoined twin cutting off the arm of the other.

Those in opposition smugly note that I haven't bought just a big lie, but all the big lies.

Champions of this country's sovereignty are content in the warm arms of the Constitution that they view not as a linear, reasoned document but rather as though it were a painting into which to tumble. Not through the looking glass, but rather through the oils, they imagined they are in an endless museum. Hall after hall, all display material in support of this country's traditional moral values. Every little breeze whispers their names. “Forget the rigors of the Constitution,” the breeze adds, “it is all about you.”

It has not snowed. Not in a long time. The *Chronicle's* annual health insurance bill just went up by more than 11%. Evidently the good news is that all that money will go to insurance company shareholders' stock values and executives' compensation and bonuses. We know this because the amount of co-pays and deductibles were also increased, while the benefits stayed the same, meaning the *Chronicle* and its employees are now paying more for those benefits. The first six years of the Bush administration were militantly partisan in a way unprecedented in our lifetimes. Even though the very ideal of civil service is to remove politics, it politically vetted bureaucratic appointees.

CONTINUED ON P.10

CARNAVAL

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March 15: MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY
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The ‘Chronicle’ Endorsements

Here are our recommendations for the March 2 primary elections – early voting begins Feb. 16. We’ve endorsed only in contested races, primarily although not exclusively on the Democratic ballot. (We have not endorsed in either Green Party or Libertarian Party races; both choose their candidates in state conventions later this year.) We’ve tried to provide information as well as our overall judgment; please supplement what we say here by considering our other reporting on the races, as well as other available sources. And, whatever your own opinion, please exercise it during the early voting period or on election day.

– The Chronicle Editorial Board

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

State and SBOE Races

Governor: Bill White

Lieutenant Governor: Ronnie Earle

Agriculture Commissioner: Hank Gilbert

Land Commissioner: Hector Uribe

State Board of Education

District 5: Rebecca Bell-Metereau

District 10: Judy Jennings

These were all very strong candidates, and easy for us to recommend strongly. For more details, see austinchronicle.com/election.

Travis County Races

County Commissioner, Precinct 4: Raul Alvarez

It’s rare that we endorse a candidate running against a longtime Democratic incumbent in Travis County, but we believe it’s time for a new county commissioner to fill the seat Margaret Gómez has occupied for 15 years. Alvarez, a trustee on the Austin Community College board and a former City Council member, is by no means the first campaign opponent Gómez has faced in her tenure, but he’s the first to bring hands-on experience, political savvy, and a vision to the table. Alvarez cut his teeth on grassroots activism and has a political track record that

proves his ability to facilitate change for the common good. Gómez has done a good job, for the most part, of advocating for and voting in the interests of her South Austin and southeastern Travis County precinct, but as we stated in our endorsement of her four years ago, “We wish that she would come out of her shell more often to battle publicly on particular issues.” Since that time, Gómez consistently failed to deliver on that challenge, opting instead to hide behind one state statute or another on controversial issues – e.g., labor or the environment – over which the county has too limited control. We need a commissioner who has a vision and the drive to implement it and who takes stands on issues, if only for the sake of doing what’s right and helping set the stage for a change in political conditions. It seems Gómez has passed the time when she could be expected to rise to that challenge. We endorse Alvarez as more likely to consistently take on that responsibility.

147th District Court: Cliff Brown

Both candidates in this race are honorable and accomplished attorneys. Brown was first a criminal defense attorney and then a prosecutor for a combined 17 years, and since 2007 he has served as Austin’s police monitor. He brought an even temperament and a determination for justice to a



very difficult assignment, raising the office to a new prominence and engagement in city affairs. Bill Gammon has a broad-based business civil practice and is best known for legal work on behalf of environmental causes. He’s running a quirky and independent campaign, vowing to accept no contributions and spend as little as possible. We admire both men and know that in any capacity, each will continue to serve the community. On balance, we believe Brown has the specific experience and judicial character that will serve him and the county well in a difficult felony court.

201st District Court: Amy Clark Meachum

This is a difficult decision for endorsers as well as voters. Justice Jan Patterson has long and broad experience in appellate law and before that in federal prosecution. She has served well on the 3rd Court of Appeals since 1999, providing some progressive balance on a court that otherwise leaned to the right. Had she decided to step down directly from that court to run for the district court, we might well have endorsed her. But her solicitation of an appointment from Gov. Rick Perry – and then her public denial that she had done so, despite the documented evidence reported first in the *Chronicle* – has cast a troubling cloud over her candidacy. It has also raised questions about her temperament, even her integrity, and earned her an ethics complaint concerning the entire episode. By contrast, Meachum has no judicial experience and is campaigning essentially on her independence and her impressive background as a civil litigator. But she certainly has the legal and intellectual background for the bench, and she promises innovation and community engagement on the court, as well as a welcome breath of youth. Patterson has created a shadow over her own candidacy that will inevitably remain should she return to the bench. Meachum is fully qualified for this seat and will bring to it a fresh perspective and a clean slate.

299th District Court: Karen Sage

The 299th may be the most difficult primary choice for local Democrats, as it involves four candidates who each have engaging qualities of experience, knowledge, personal history, and desire for innovation. Presumed frontrunners Sage and Mindy Montford have solid prosecutorial backgrounds, good ideas for improving the court system, and a sufficient range of experience to make a successful judgeship. (Montford would bring particular insight to the job, learning – after her questionable arrest last year on a public intoxication charge that was quickly dismissed – that the system does have flaws.) Leonard Martinez has a lengthy career as a defense attorney, but his legal work has met with sharp criticism at times. Eve Schatelowitz Alcantar is capable and earnest (her campaign events are also charitable fundraisers), but she lacks the experience of her competitors. This race may well go to a runoff – but on balance, in light of the range of her experience and her demonstrated seriousness of purpose, our recommendation goes to Sage.

331st District Court: David Crain

Two compelling candidates compete to replace retiring Judge Bob Perkins. Keith Lauerman is a defense attorney with practical experience trying serious felony cases, which this court handles and which includes the most serious range of punishments – including death. Crain has been presiding over cases in Travis County since 1985, when he first became a justice of the peace. Since 1992 he’s decided misdemeanor cases in County Court at Law No. 3. Lauerman has more direct felony experience and would bring considerable defense bar experience – generally underrepresented on the felony bench. But Crain’s hands-on judicial experience means he’ll be ready on day one to sustain this busy criminal court. And we’re impressed by his commitment to working with mentally ill offenders, trying to get them into social services and divert them from jail when possible. He should have a chance to continue this work on the felony bench.

County Court at Law No. 3: John Lipscombe

This will be another difficult vote. Both Olga Seelig (from hairdresser to municipal court judge) and Lipscombe (from oil-field roughneck to shuttle-bus driver to longtime prosecutor) offer compelling personal narratives, from humble backgrounds to considerable accomplishments. Each candidate promises to engage the court in restorative justice approaches, using special dockets or other innovative methods to address social issues that can’t simply be solved with the bang of a gavel; both have already worked in their current posts to establish such methods. It’s a difficult call, but on balance we believe Lipscombe has longer and broader experience in the kind of socially complex cases facing this court and good instincts and practice at how best to address them in a progressive way.

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1: Yvonne Williams

Former Associate Municipal Judge Williams (she stepped down to run for JP)

MARCH 2 JOINT PRIMARY ELECTIONS

(EARLY VOTING FEB. 16-26)

You may vote at any early voting location in the county in which you are registered. On election day, voters must vote in their precincts. Get a list of precinct locations by calling 238-VOTE or visiting www.traviscountyelections.org.

Williamson County info: www.wilco.org/elections or 943-1630.

Hays County info: www.elections.co.hays.tx.us or 393-7310.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Early voting polls are open Monday-Saturday, 7am-7pm, and Sunday, noon-6pm, unless noted otherwise.

CENTRAL

Travis County Offices, 5501 Airport
Fiesta Mart, 3909 N. I-35
University of Texas, Flawn Academic Center Lobby, West Mall
Goodwill Industries, 701 Newman (Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., noon-6pm)

NORTH

Ben Hur Shriners Hall, 7811 Rockwood
MT Supermarket, 10901 N. Lamar, Bldg. G, at Chinatown Center (Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm)

NORTHEAST

County Tax Office, 15822 Foothill Farms Loop, Pflugerville
Goodwill Industries, 1015 Norwood Park Blvd. (Mon.-Fri., 8am-7pm; Sat., 9am-7pm; Sun., noon-6pm)

NORTHWEST

Randalls, 10900-D Research
H-E-B, 7301 FM 620 N. (temp building in parking lot)

SOUTH

Randalls, 2025 W. Ben White
H-E-B, 2400 S. Congress (temp building in parking lot)

SOUTHEAST

Dan Ruiz Library, 1600 Grove (Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-5pm)
Fiesta Mart, 5510 S. I-35

SOUTHWEST

Randalls, 6600 MoPac S.
Randalls, 9911 Brodie

EAST

Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center, 2608 Gonzales (Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10-5)
Carver Museum, 1165 Angelina (Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 1-5pm)

WEST

Randalls, 3300 Bee Caves Rd., West Lake Hills
Randalls, 2301 RR 620 S., Lakeway

MOBILE VOTING

TUESDAY, FEB. 16

Travis Bldg., 1701 Congress, 8am-6pm
University Medical Center Brackenridge, 601 E. 15th, 9am-noon
Dell Children's Medical Center, 4900 Mueller, 2-5pm
Parsons House, 1130 Camino la Costa, 8-10am
The Continental, 4604 S. Lamar, 11:30am-1:30pm
Summit Lakeway, 1915 Lohmans Crossing, 4-7pm

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17

Sam Houston Bldg., 201 E. 14th, 8am-6pm
Stephen F. Austin Bldg., 1700 Congress, 8am-6pm
Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, 500 E. Seventh, 8-10am
RBJ Residential Tower, 21 Waller, 11:30am-1:30pm
Lakeside Senior Center, 85 Trinity, 3-5pm

THURSDAY, FEB. 18

Central Services Bldg., 1711 San Jacinto, 8am-6pm
Winters Bldg., 701 W. 51st, 8am-6pm
Emeritus at North Austin, 5310 Duval Rd., 9am-noon
Heritage Pointe, 1950 Webberville Rd., 2-5pm

and Assistant County Attorney Daniel Bradford represent some of the best young energy of Austin and the Democratic Party, and on the campaign trail they exchange heartfelt compliments that belie their current competition. Williams has far and away more experience, having served as a fighting civil rights attorney when it most mattered, as briefing clerk to Judge Morris Overstreet on the Court of Criminal Appeals, and as a workers' compensation hearing officer, before taking on the county's night court duties. Bradford has less experience – he describes one of his advantages as being a young lawyer among “entrenched bureaucrats.” He has worked both at the Texas Civil Rights Project and the state Attorney General's Office, an interesting range, but insufficient to persuade us he is yet Williams' match in judicial experience and perspective.

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2: Karin Crump

Crump is an attorney and certified mediator with 12 years of broad legal experience, ranging from miscellaneous business law to appointed criminal defense and children's legal advocate. She also has broad connections with legal service organizations and the state bar. Her opponent, Fidel “Ace” Acevedo, is a longtime Democratic activist and has been deeply engaged in the community for many years. The JP courts handle both civil and criminal cases of a wide variety, and it's undoubtedly an advantage to have legal experience to perform the duties of the court. In light of her background in law, we recommend Crump for the job.

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 5: Herb Evans

Incumbent Evans is intelligent, hardworking, and has served county residents well. We again endorse him without reservation.

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It got this country involved in two wars and then cut taxes. Not to balance the budget, but just for spite, it gutted the social safety net. Now, it seems somewhat odd that good old pro-business fiscal conservatives would cut taxes (the funds coming into the government) and increase spending (wars are never cheap), doesn't it?

Most outrageously, it spent federal money like never before, ensuring that the debt from its half-decade bacchanal would be our descendants' to bear. Along the way, its attitude toward regulation and economic policies resulted in the financial conditions this country faces today.

When Republicans talk about their vision of health care now, it does make one wonder why they didn't take the initiative to change it during the last administration. Why did they not reshape Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid and close unnecessary military bases? Instead, they initiated two wars and endless spending with little to show for it. There was no real reform but instead a horrifyingly expensive drug bill passed to benefit senior citizens. Meanwhile, the even more terrifyingly expensive bill for fighting a war against drugs (against our neighbors and children) seems inexplicable.

Despite their record, trust them. Think about what they are saying, not what they did when they were in power.

Listen to them. Celebrate paranoia, honor hatred, and desecrate community with them.

They know President Obama is an alien, a grand Muslim archbishop, and the last true descendent of one of the great Zoroastrian bloodlines. A child-sacrificing Hebrew, he was born in Kenya. He was created in a test tube. Obama, like Frankenstein, was put together in the laboratory from different pieces of dead humans sewn together. Born in Uzbekistan, Argentina, and Atlantis, he is not a citizen. He is a Marxist, a Bolshevik, a Trotskyist, an anarchist, and a socialist.

IV

I am voting Republican in the next election, because they are patriots! The massive spending by congressional Republicans dur-

ing the first half of this decade left precious little in terms of a trail. Certainly, it seems nearly impossible to track. Money was spent, and then even more was spent. The country's infrastructure, education system, debt, health care system, and working poor did not benefit at all.

Instead, funds were so brilliantly misapplied and badly appropriated that the end result of these unprecedented expenditures of Republican binge spending was the collapse of financial markets and the economy.

In many ways, it is like one of those movies in which the shiftless heir will inherit a fortune if he can spend \$1 million in 24 hours and have nothing to show for it.

There is no doubt in my mind that those Republican politicians who have metaphorically achieved exactly that will be amply rewarded.

In order to facilitate recovery from the many disasters the Bush administration involved us in, the Obama administration's spending is far more substantial than that of previous administrations.

And what for? To try to clean up the messes he inherited? To save the American economy? To help most citizens? Obama is a socialist/communist, voodoo-practicing foreigner! There really is no way that the very rich are benefiting from Obama at all!

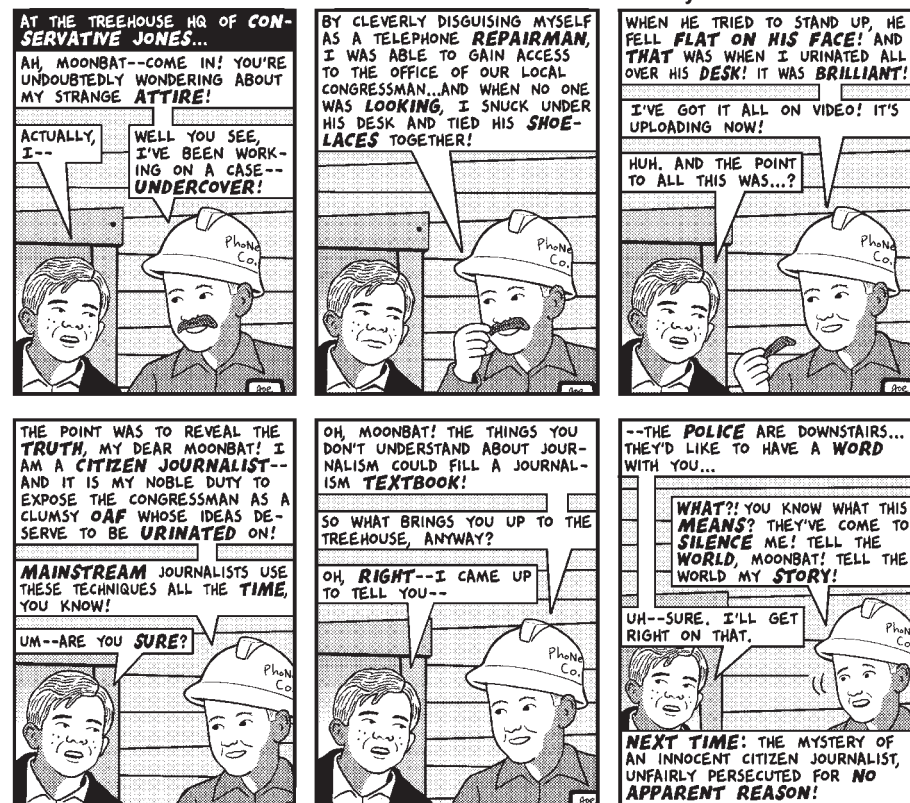
I am voting Republican in the next election, because no group can ignore its own history so effortlessly. The Bush administration was vigilantly and violently partisan beyond reason. Now the Republican leadership intones the word "bipartisan" as though it was one of the 8 million names of God. And they do that while their politically pure partisanship is neither altered nor denied.

Sure, their spending did pass along a burden to future generations, but instead of wallowing in knee-jerk liberal guilt, they show up on the floor of Congress, blaming others as they hold babies.

There was one massive diplomatic blunder after another and at least one totally unnecessary war. The Bush administration alienated nations traditionally friendly to the United States, while their military intrusions and arrogance empowered our enemies. But did this get to the Bushites? Did they end up whin-

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



ing babies? Damn no! Have they capitulated since? Hell no! As with all red-blooded, real, 100% patriotic Americans, they've refused to admit any fault and would far sooner be caught apologizing to Rush Limbaugh than to any foreign leader.

But that Andorra-born, Vatican-birthed, Outer Mongolia-delivered Obama has gone around apologizing! Doesn't he understand American exceptionalism?!

I'm not entirely sure what American exceptionalism is; I suspect it has something to do with those ranting about how illegal immigrants will destroy our culture, which I guess means Wal-Mart, Transformers, NASCAR, The Real Housewives of Orange County, and McDonald's. Not that I have contempt for any of those, but they do seem safe from being corrupted by illegal aliens.

Coda

The Chronicle pays 100% of our full-time employees' health insurance coverage. Those clever, pro-business, free-enterprise-loving conservatives who are certain that a free, unregulated market will inherently solve all problems have saved our small business. We used to pay far less for health insurance and get far more. What's American about that?

Now we still pay 100% of the full-time staff's health care insurance. But in less than a decade, that cost has gone up more than 50%, with substantial increased financial liability for the insured, accompanied by cuts in benefits.

This is America at its greatest! This is the unregulated market in a free-enterprise system self-correcting and healing itself.

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Postmarks

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HORNSBY BEND DECISION TERRIBLE

Dear Editor,

Re: "Point Austin: The Army Saves the Day" [News, Jan. 15]: The recent insane vote to approve the Hornsby Bend project is very sad to me and our neighborhood. For the ones who stood up to fight, thank you. To the ones who disregarded the human value of a comfortable life without extra noise and pollution, shame on you. I know you and any TXI official would not be happy to have this kind of pillaging brought upon yourself. The bottom line is this points everything toward a very negative outlook for our future. There are plenty of riverbeds downstream to mine without it being in a neighborhood. I thought that these city officials were put in office to help the citizens of Austin. Well, they shouldn't be in office if this is what we're getting out of them. I hope there will be some kind of appeal to *help our lives*. I read an article that TXI is famous for doing favors for those who help them. I wonder what these individuals got. It makes no sense for city officials to have this kind of power to destroy.

Luis Bella

SADDENED BY UT'S ACTIONS

Dear Editor,

I am deeply saddened by not only the loss of informal classes but also the University of Texas' disregard for one of its roles, namely providing benefit to the community ["'A' Is for Axed: UT Chops Cactus, Cuts Classes," News, Feb. 5; "Off the Record," Music, Feb. 5]. I have attended many informal classes over the years (as a UT student and an alumnus). As a result, I have enjoyed an enhancement of my interests as well as my professional skills. What a great program and benefit to the community informal classes are! UT has apparently lost sight of this fact, and that is more than unfortunate. I will always bleed orange, but some of my regard has certainly been diminished now. I

must say, if part of UT's mission is "cultivating enduring regard for the University of Texas," they have failed miserably in their mission with this decision.

David Leviton

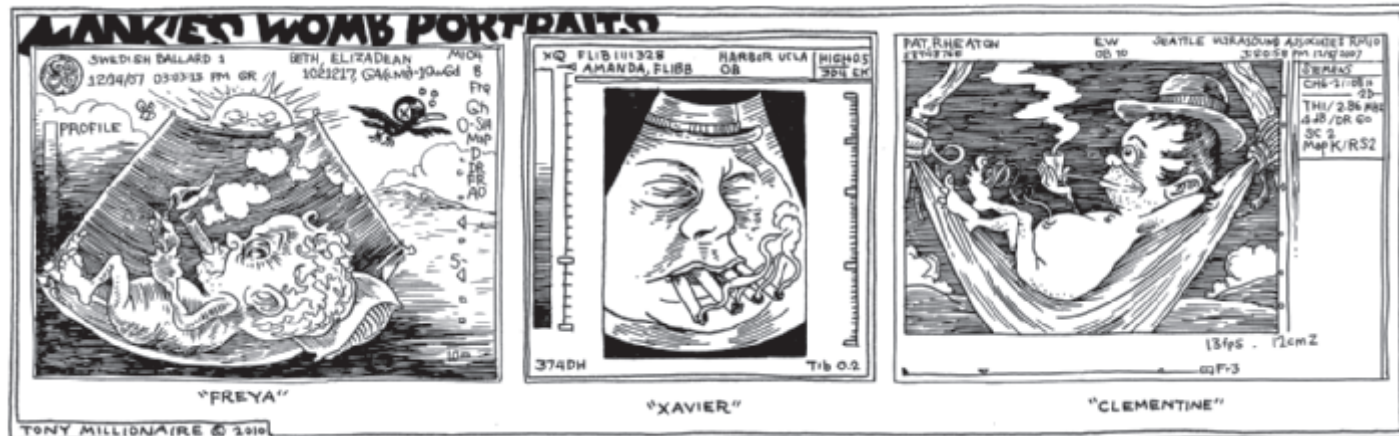
DISAPPOINTED BY UT'S PLAN TO CLOSE CACTUS

Dear Editor,

As a University of Texas professor of American Studies currently researching contemporary American roots music, I'm disappointed at UT's plan to close the Cactus Cafe, Austin's most significant venue for that aspect of our national musical heritage, as iconic as the Victory Grill for blues and the

Elephant Room for jazz ["'A' Is for Axed: UT Chops Cactus, Cuts Classes," News, Feb. 5; "Off the Record," Music, Feb. 5]. Each new comment from the UT administration seems to add another after-the-fact rationale. If the percentage of nonstudents vs. students in attendance is the reason for shutting the Cactus, then I would recommend UT closely examine such events as readings by authors at the Harry Ransom Center and the Michener Center for Writers, the Distinguished Lecturer series sponsored by the Humanities Institute, and home games of the UT baseball team – all of which may require abolishing for serving majority nonstudent audiences. Or maybe it's time the administration recognizes a mistake has been made.

Jeff Meikle



Valentines anyone?

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ISSUES WITH CACTUS CAFE'S SOUND

Dear Editor,

The Cactus Cafe has been a wonderful venue in many regards ["'A' Is for Axed: UT Chops Cactus, Cuts Classes," News, Feb. 5; "Off the Record," Music, Feb. 5]. However, I attended a show there in 2008 to record the featured artist and was surprised to find that the house audio console was not exactly in great shape. It offered several dead input channels and an obviously growing list of dysfunctional features. I wondered at the time how a venue with a rep for great sound could leave the board in this condition, unless the Cactus was pretty severely strapped for cash. The sound operator that night (Joey Christopher) was excellent and dealt easily with something that could have been a problem with an act needing a complete, properly working board. How much money are we talking in subsidies for "seven of the last eight years"? How many of those 17,000 Facebookers have been to the Cactus recently enough to have made a difference in the bottom line? Has the Cactus been paying rent? Most competing venues in Austin do not enjoy a public subsidy. If one gets too comfortable running in a subsidized setting, one may overlook small variable costs that can eventually add up to financial ruin. Intensive focus on those costs was a key part of what kept Armadillo World Headquarters going post-1976.

Hank Alrich

[Editor's note: Hank Alrich was the manager, underwriter, and "guardian angel" of Armadillo

World Headquarters for most of the Seventies, until its closing at the end of 1980.]

THE LUV DOC IS TERRIFIC!

Dear Editor,

Who writes the column "The Luv Doc Recommends"? He (I'm almost positive that the writer is male) is terrific! He should get some recognition for writing good, interesting stuff that is always my favorite part of the *Chron*. Since the *Chronicle's* dreadful loss of "The Straight Dope," "The Luv Doc" is almost alone in nonpolitical comment.

Tommy X Hancock

[Editor's note: Dan Hardick writes "The Luv Doc."]

GREAT BLACK MILK INTERVIEW

Dear Editor,

Re: "Sound of the City" [Earache! Music blog, Jan. 13]: Great interview. I love listening to the things that Black has to say. You can tell he is intelligent and has an immense passion for music and its many aspects. As a fellow Detroit, it's obvious that our community as a whole is experiencing the drastic effects of the recession due to the collapse of the auto industry and the highest unemployment rate in the nation. I feel that, with all of the negative things that are associated with our city, Black Milk gives us something positive that we can be proud of. I realize that this performance already took place, but I just wanted to share how much pride we have for the music that comes out of Detroit thanks to artists like Black Milk. I am sure that the people of Austin enjoyed him there as much as we do back home.

Ray Monberg
Detroit, Mich.



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news

Headlines

- **Early voting** in the Democratic and Republican primary elections starts Tuesday, Feb. 16, and runs through Feb. 26; read up on the candidates in "Primary Intelligence," p.26, and consider the *Chronicle's* endorsements, p.8.
- The other election: Austin ISD board Vice President **Vince Torres** became the first elected official to confirm he will run in the May 8 municipal elections, seeking a second four-year term.
- Economic incentives designed to attract L.A.-based **LegalZoom** to Austin come before the City Council today, Thursday, Feb. 11, with a final vote scheduled for next week. Also up: creation of new four-day **sound permits** and possible action on the city recycling contract. See "City Hall Hustle," p.16.
- The nascent **Waterfront Planning Advisory Board** voted on its first case Monday, the controversial Park planned unit development at 801 Barton Springs, the former site of the Filling Station restaurant. Neighborhood activists oppose the PUD's 120-foot height and say the smaller lot size isn't a fit for PUD zoning. Ultimately, the board split, 3-3.
- Work is finally beginning on the redesign of the **city of Austin website**. Local contractors SteelSMBology "will define the initiative's future direction and contribute technological and design specifications," says the city; crowd-sourced computers Open Austin have inked an alliance with the city to assist. This phase is expected to take six to eight months; the actual construction will follow.
- Staring down the barrel of a \$64 million budget shortfall, **Austin ISD** officials Wednesday said they may need to trim more than 100 jobs and seek a tax rate increase in 2012. For more, see "Naked City," p.16.
- Fans of the Cactus Cafe have dug in for the long fight against the Texas Union by filing legal documents on Feb. 8 to create a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, **Friends of the Cactus Cafe**. While UT officials have discussed plans to save the music venue, they remain silent on the cancellation of the **informal classes** program. See "UT Budget Cuts," p.24, and "Off the Record," Music, p.57.
- Travis County Commissioners Tuesday voted 4-0 (with Ron Davis absent) to mediate a civil rights complaint filed last month by former executive manager **Alicia Perez**, whom commissioners fired in 2009, citing her long-running dispute with human resources director **Linda Moore Smith**, who was also fired. Perez filed her complaint with the Texas Workforce Commission, claiming racial and gender discrimination.
- **Bill White** and **Farouk Shami** faced off Monday in the only televised debate between the Democratic gubernatorial frontrunners. Among the notable quotables from Shami, in regard to Texas border policy: "Without Mexicans, it'd be like a day without sunshine in our state."
- Former Texas Democratic Congressman **Charlie Wilson** (r), who helped funnel Pentagon cash to the pre-al-Qaeda Taliban in Afghanistan, died Wednesday — two days after Pennsylvania Democrat and Vietnam War veteran Rep. **John Murtha**, whose opposition to America's involvement in Iraq galvanized the anti-war movement, died from complications from surgery.



JOHN ANDERSON

The city of Austin Tuesday began removing thousands of city-vehicle scrap tires from this Southeast Austin site, where they had been improperly disposed of and stored. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is investigating the city and the tire shop owner's roles in the ordeal. For more on this story, see "The Tire Mound of Mystery," Dec. 4, 2009.

And the Winner Is ...

What we think about when we think about endorsing

BY MICHAEL KING

It's political endorsement season, a time that strikes terror into the heart of every candidate and existential ennui into those of the *Chronicle* editorial board — that curmudgeonly octopus of the News staff, the news and managing editors, and the publisher, all of whom take part in the seasonal ritual. (In recent years Editor Louis Black, thoroughly enervated by the process over nearly three decades, has decamped to more abstract cultural climes.) Since it's party primary time, theoretically that at least doubles the number of potential endorsement reports, meetings, discussions — but in practice, in the People's Mostly Democratic Republic of Travis County, we are largely confined to the Democratic races, and then only races actually contested. But there are quite a few of those this year — as you will see if you review our results on p.8 — and as I write, it's not even certain we can fit them all into a single issue. Ain't democracy grand?

When everybody's available, there are about 10 of us on the "board" in all, although we all wear several hats around here and in particular, unlike conventional editorialists, wear both reporting and

endorsing hats at this time of year. That means some of us are simultaneously interviewing candidates on the fly and reporting back to our colleagues as we gather and form a consensus on the various races.

("Consensus" isn't unanimity; we do the best we can in each race, determine a published recommendation, and then head to the polls, each on our own.) As we note, we endorse only in contested races — we figure the parties can designate their own unopposed appointments — and we meet directly as a group with candidates only if we haven't been able to establish a clear choice based on available candidate information.

Partly that's a concession to time and space (here's a shout-out to Cafe Hornitos, the friendly restaurant up the block which briefly provides our conference room during this season), and partly it's an acknowledgment that voters get even less opportunity to "meet the candidates" and must rely on whatever published sources and word-of-mouth they can find.

point
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QUOTE of the WEEK



"Thank God I'm not a politician."

— Gubernatorial candidate Farouk Shami, during Monday night's debate with primary opponent Bill White

CONTINUED ON P.17

Naked City

► **TAXI RIDE TO NOWHERE** “We are free to drive any 15 hours a day we choose.” That’s a telling remark by an Austin taxi driver in a new report on local working conditions. Among the grim findings: The average driver income, including tips, is \$200 a week (before taxes), without benefits or insurance – and that’s if he rides roughly 12-hour days, 6½ days a week, and takes unpaid “vacations” of perhaps half a week a year. A job once seen as that of an urban cowboy, enjoying freedom and independence, has instead become one of endless drudgery and danger for barely survivable wages. The report, “**Driving Austin, Driving Injustice.**” was issued this week by Legal Assistance to Micro-Enterprises Project, a project of **Texas RioGrande Legal Aid** and **Texas C-BAR**, funded in part by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and with the cooperation of the Taxi Driver Association of Austin, a newly formed driver advocacy group. The report includes recommendations to the city on reforming the local taxi industry; it can be downloaded at www.austintaxidriver.org. – Michael King

► **HALL BEHIND BARS** Laura Ashley Hall will face a new sentencing trial March 8 for her role in the 2005 murder and partial dismemberment of UT student **Jennifer Cave**. Witnesses said Hall was dragged from the courtroom protesting her imprisonment. Judge Wilford Flowers ruled that because the appeals court granted Hall a new sentencing hearing but upheld her underlying convictions for tampering with evidence and hindering apprehension, she was no longer entitled to remain out of jail on bond pending her upcoming hearing. Before leaving the room, Hall told a mute Flowers that she was not guilty and should be sent home. Hall was convicted in 2007 of attempting to cover up Cave’s death and helping her friend, former UT student **Colton Pitonyak** – who had shot and killed Cave while on a drug- and alcohol-induced bender – to flee to Mexico. Pitonyak was convicted in 2007 and sentenced to 55 years in prison. Hall was sentenced to five years, but that sentence was tossed out after the 3rd Court of Appeals concluded that prosecutors had failed to disclose to her defense key information regarding its sole witness during the punishment phase of her trial. Heading back to a jury for sentencing next month is something of a gamble for Hall, exposing her to the entire range of punishment available for her offenses, including up to 10 years in prison. Had she chosen a bench trial, Flowers would have been restricted to a maximum punishment of the five years her previous jury had imposed. – Jordan Smith

► **CARSTARPHEN’S CONTROVERSY** Austin ISD board work sessions aren’t usually sources of contention. Yet the Feb. 8 trustees’ meeting furrowed some brows as Superintendent **Meria Carstarphen** continued to make her case for declaring financial exigency by presenting predictions of an 8-10% drop in the commercial property tax base. This comes less than a week after Carstarphen launched her **Turnaround Initiative** to bring more private and nonprofit entities into schools. Several board members have publicly and repeatedly expressed major concerns about restructuring the district without a clearer view of the budget. The exigency plan is currently scheduled to come before the board for a vote on Feb. 22. – Richard Whittaker

NEWS

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

In the spring, a council’s thoughts turn to ... sound ordinances

BY WELLS DUNBAR

The signs are everywhere that **South by Southwest** is right around the corner. Party lists are popping up on Facebook. Random RSVP requests are appearing in the Hustle’s inbox. The *Chronicle* proofreaders break out in hives at the slightest mention of the Festival. And of course, the City Council is once again mucking about with **sound permits** for music venues.

Remember how well the last round of tweaks went? March 2009 revisions to the city code – specifically those highlighting a long-on-the-books, albeit scarcely enforced 75-decibel limit for live-music-hosting restaurants – was only the prime topic of the Austin body politic for oh, say, a quarter of the year, in the process making Barton Springs noise complainant **Scott Trainer** temporarily infamous and the sleepy music series at Shady Grove the most important music-culture touchstone since Stevie Ray passed (an honor recently ceded to the **Cactus Cafe**).

Fortunately, it looks like council’s decided against an encore. This week’s agenda Item 17, from Randi Shade, Mike Martinez, and Laura Morrison, does the city a solid – creating a new, **96-hour sound amplification permit** for venues looking to host some tunes. According to a draft version of the item, current city codes “do not include adequate provisions for outdoor music events of limited duration, which play a vital role in the spring festival season, but also pose unique challenges for permitting and planning.” And with “festival season” speedily upon us, the new rules are set to take effect on passage. Morrison says the new category is required, as would-be venues are currently forced to choose between one-day or one-year permits. “It became clear that we really needed something in-between there,” she says, “something in place that could accommodate folks during South by Southwest.” (We might note that the permits will primarily cover the private, RSVP shows in nontraditional venues, not official SXSW events.) She adds that “because it’s such quick action” – passed on an emergency basis, actually – it sunsets at the end of June, letting policymakers revisit the issue then.

That’s not to say the new ordinance is a cure-all for music issues – specifically neighborhood concerns. A mandated 14-day window between permit application and issuance all but ensures that some tardy promoters will miss the boat. The delay is likely there so the city can notify surrounding neighbors and businesses, which itself could conceivably kink up an application or two. And as largely unofficial SXSW parties inch farther east in search of cheap rentals and cheaper street cred, the issue takes on added relevance with Eastsiders fighting music permits as a proxy fight against gentrification.

While unrelated to the temporary permit issue, another item this week (Item 35) testifies to this tension, as Eastside activist and River Bluff Neighborhood Association member **Daniel Llanes** attempts to appeal a sound permit for solar-powered music outfitter **Sustainable Waves** on grounds including “the number of unregulated venues in the area,” and Llanes and like-minded others have been addressing council regularly on the issue of Eastside venues. (Item 34 is another appeal, against **Little Woodrow’s on the Drag**, as the **North University Neighborhood Planning Team** has apparently decided live music doesn’t suit the hood’s needs.)

The Hustle understands Eastside concerns. Gentrification alone is bad enough; hundreds of bicoastal hipsters descending on your neighborhood for one debauched, Pabst-fueled weekend sounds even worse. But after all of last spring’s hand-wringing, absolutists of any stripe – raucous makeshift venues or the neighbors they infuriate – should both try a little harmony.

ZOOMING TO RECYCLE

Sound permits are but the opening act, as the question of economic incentives for L.A.-based **LegalZoom** to move here takes the headlining spot. Staff presentation on the potential deal is set for 10:30am, and public comment is permitted. (Two other briefings are also scheduled, on the city’s partnership with the **Lower Colorado River Authority** and on developing the **East Riverside Corridor Master Plan**, respectively.) Final action on the LegalZoom contract is scheduled for a special-called council meeting Thursday, Feb. 18, 5:30pm.

Also drawing the crowds should be Item 15, extending the city’s recycling contract with **Greenstar North America** – which trucks our recyclables to San Antonio – until September 2011. As if the months-long recycling saga wasn’t convoluted enough, Greenstar, a potential bidder in building a local materials recovery facility, has been accused of violating a ban of lobbying for the MRF contract. Moreover, the deadline for MRF bids just recently passed, adding yet another wrinkle to the recyclables. And late Tuesday, **Texas Disposal Systems** – also under a lobbying cloud – offered to handle the city’s recyclables for three years – *at no charge*. Expect lots of discussion and competing timelines on the dais. Lastly, Item 19 from **Chris Riley** seeks to green local development, as it asks the city manager to provide recommendations on ways to cut greenhouse-gas emissions during demolition and construction. ■

Direct constructive/destructive criticism to www.twitter.com/cityhallhustle.

res publica FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, P.66.

THURSDAY 11

AISD TRUSTEES want your input on boundaries for the new Southwest Elementary School on Meridian Park Boulevard. To speak, you must sign up before the meeting. 6pm. Carruth Admin. Ctr., 1111 W. Sixth. www.austinisd.org/inside/2004bond/boundaries/swes.phtml.

COLORADO RIVER FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE Learn how you can help preserve and protect Lady Bird Lake and other Colorado River off-shoots. 6pm. Redbud Center, Rm. 225, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., 498-1587. Free. www.coloradoriver.org.

PHILIP GOUREVITCH ON ABU GHRAIB New Yorker staff writer, editor of *The Paris Review*, and author of *Standard Operating Procedure* discusses the prison scandal. 7pm. UT campus, Joynes Reading Room, 2501 Whitis, 471-5692. Free. www.utexas.edu/cola/progs/plan2/events/13796.

THE FUTURE OF FOOD DOCUMENTARY SCREENING Learn about the relationship between agriculture, big business, and government. 7:30pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free. www.monkeywrenchbooks.org.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN FAMILY SUPPORT CONFERENCE Thu.-Fri., Feb. 11-12. Hyatt Regency, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 477-1234. Free. www.ctaafsc.org.

FRIDAY 12

MIDWIVES FOR HAITI BENEFIT AUCTION An evening of music, drinks, and desserts to help local midwives provide care and supplies to Haiti. 8-10pm. Soma Vida, 1210 Rosewood, 809-4944. Donations appreciated. driasser@gmail.com.

SWEET BARKS FUNDRAISER Help Austin Pets Alive! find loving homes for lonely pets this Valentine’s Day; make a donation or adopt a pet. Noon-4pm. APA! South Congress adoption site, South Congress & Gibson. www.austinpetsalive.org.

SATURDAY 13

DEAR MRS. PARKS Jazz trumpeter Hannibal Lokumbe celebrates the life of Rosa Parks. See “Aural History,” p.58, for more. 8pm. *Texas Spirit Theater*, Bullock Texas History Museum, 1800 N. Congress. \$35. Reservations required: 936-4649. www.thestoryoftexas.com/education/adults.html.

BLOOD DRIVE: ROCK N’ ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVE Give blood; get prizes from the folks at KLBJ radio. Noon-4pm. *Sherlock’s Baker St. Pub*, 9012 Research Ste. C-1, 380-9443. www.inyourhands.org.

SUNDAY 14

ROY ZIMMERMAN’S REAL AMERICAN combines biting political satire with unique guitar stylings. 8pm. *First Unitarian Universalist Church*, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. \$15 (\$12, members).

PICKIN’ PARTY FOR PEACE Get together with fellow peace and music lovers to plan the Million Musicians March for Peace. 2-4:30pm. *Cafe Caffeine*, 909 W. Mary. www.millionmusiciansmarch.com.

TEXAS OBSERVER RABBLE ROUSER ROUNDUP Schmooze with writers, editors, and other Observer bigwigs. 4-8pm. *Barr Mansion*, 10463 Sprinkle Rd., 477-0746. \$50. www.texasobserver.org.

TUESDAY 16

BARSTOW SPEAKERS SERIES Catch Robert Glenon, author of *Unquenchable: America’s Water Crisis and What to Do About It*. Call or go online to register. 11:30am. *Four Seasons Hotel*, 98 San Jacinto, 498-1587. \$35 (\$15, students; free, members). www.coloradoriver.org.

EARLY VOTING BEGINS The primaries aren’t till March, but why wait when you can vote today? For polling locations and *Chronicle* endorsements, see p.8; for more info, see “Primary Intelligence,” p.26; and for ongoing election coverage, check out Election Central at austinchronicle.com/election. Early voting: Feb. 16-26. Election day: March 2.

NEY HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PLANNING MEETING Vet the city’s proposed historic landscape plans for the **Elizabet Ney Museum** and consider a proposal by Hyde Park residents to amend the museum’s period of historic significance. 6pm. *Parks and Recreation Board Room*, 200 S. Lamar. www.cityofaustin.org/parks/elisabetneycipproject.htm.

Look and Leap

There's frankly not a lot of information out there. We do this for a living (alas), and as we go to press Wednesday for an early voting period that begins Tuesday, there are a handful of bottom-ballot candidates who still haven't responded to our inquiries — they filed for office, for gosh sakes, but we can't actually expect them to be accessible to reporters. (Of course, some politicians don't like to talk to the *Chronicle* because we're insufficiently deferential. Breaks our hearts. A few dodge our phone calls initially because they haven't yet drawn an opponent — then when a challenger files, suddenly they're all, "When can we have coffee?" It's nice to be loved.)

In a few races, we were pleased and discomfited to find more than one genuinely qualified candidate. That made our decisions more difficult, while confirming there are still plenty of good, accomplished folks out there who enter public service for the right reasons. In endorsing, we try to abide by the voting booth rule — you have to choose one, and one only — although we occasionally can't come to agreement and issue a split endorsement (didn't happen this year, so far). There is also a certain comedy in watching candidates jump from race to race during the filing period, hoping for a slot either without an opponent or with one they can easily defeat. Moreover, there's entirely too much "insiderism" among the courthouse crowd, where entitled Dem lawyers work the hallways until they decide they're ready to run for a judge'ship under the motto, "It's my turn."

If that's what the candidate appears to think, then for us, it ain't.

A Grain of Salt

Beyond our sincere recommendations, the more substantive purpose of our endorsements is to provide useful voter information. The bulk of that information you will find in our "Primary Intelligence: Local Races" feature (p.26), in which we focus on the local races of particular interest (turning to statewide races next week). Since so many of the primaries are

judicial races, Jordan Smith carried the heaviest portion of that assignment this time around, as she's our primary criminal justice/courthouse reporter. We all have misgivings about electing judges, who are required to campaign for votes but then expected to judge impartially. To their credit, most of the Travis County judicial candidates compete — rhetorically, at least, when they're talking to the *Chronicle* — to declare their commitments to alternative, innovative, or restorative justice. One can hope that when they're addressing other audiences — say the folks at the Austin Police Association — they don't blindly shift to trumpeting how tough on crime they'll be.

By the way, we don't feel obligated to confine our reporting to that pompous word "issues," wielded like a cudgel by folks who seem to believe candidates can be judged entirely as an accumulation of political opinions, apart from their character and judgment. Especially in primaries, expressed opinions are often indistinguishable — we're trying to predict considered behavior and judgment in office, not just whether a candidate agrees with us on every "issue." The more they strain to tell us what they believe we want to hear, the less likely we are to trust it.

On the public forum front, this year the local Dems tried something new — a universal candidate affair at the Eastside Millennium center, where three dozen or more candidates got two to five minutes each to woo a few hundred Dem loyalists. It was an admirable idea (very helpful, by the way, to reporters buttonholing candidates on the wing), though doing it by the gross and in a literal roller rink with roller-rink acoustics somewhat undermined the effort. Perhaps it can be refined a bit next time around — maybe a required online forum for each Dem hopeful?

In the meantime, we certainly share your inevitable doubts about our choices. Nevertheless, we hope you find our endorsements helpful as a thumbnail of things to consider on the way to the voting booth and as an engaging alternative to more reflexively conventional sources. If you can't bear reading about them, it's unlikely you'll care to vote for them. ■

WEDNESDAY 17

A NEIGHBORLY CONVERSATION features the Democratic candidates for Travis Co. Commissioner Precinct 4 — **Margaret Gómez** and **Raul Alvarez** — discussing the issues head-to-head. (See "Primary Intelligence," p.26.) Noon. KOOP 91.7FM.

ENVIROS FOR RAUL Hear what Raul Alvarez's supporters have to say (see above). 5:30-7:30pm. Opal Divine's Freehouse, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308.

STATE OF THE CITY DINNER Mayor **Lee Leffingwell** delivers his annual address, hosted by the Austin League of Women Voters. 6:30-9:30pm. UT Club, 2108 E. Robert Dedman. \$52 (\$47, members). RSVP by Feb. 15: lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org.

THURSDAY 18

ACTIVIST SCHOLARSHIP CONFERENCE brings together artists, community organizers, and scholars to address the state of social justice in the Americas. Thu.-Sat., Feb. 18-20. UT campus, Texas Union, 24th & Guadalupe, 232-8586. Free.

BICYCLE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING 6:30pm. One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd., 203-7626. www.austineconetwork.com/calendar.

COMMUNITY FORUM: THE REALITY OF OUR EXISTENCE The Central Texas chapter of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators hosts this dialogue about health care, education, the digital divide, and more. 6pm. King-Seabrook Chapel at Huston-Tillotson University, 900 Chicon, 626-8404.

MEET-AND-GREET: EVE SCHATELOWITZ ALCANTAR & BILL GAMMON Get to know these judicial candidates for the 299th and 147th District Courts, respectively, and bring a canned food donation for the **Capital Area Food Bank**. 5:30-7:30pm. Jovita's, 1619 S. First.

RESULTS BENEFIT Julie Bolz talks about her experiences building schools in Afghanistan — to raise funds for **Results**, working to end poverty around the world. **Jim Hightower** is also on the bill. 7pm. Schmidt-Jones Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca, 638-0557. Donations appreciated. sites.google.com/site/resultstexas/austin-results-2010-benefit.

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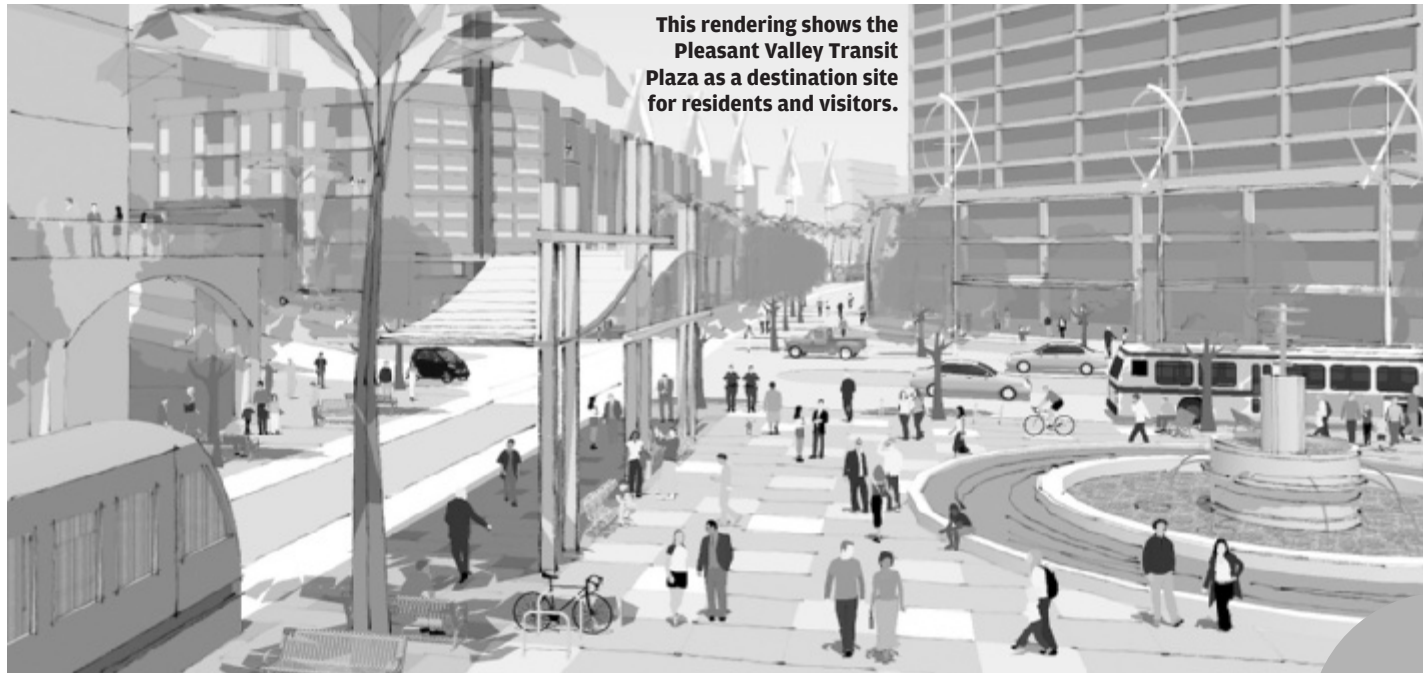
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This rendering shows the Pleasant Valley Transit Plaza as a destination site for residents and visitors.

GET REAL

The plan highlights city-owned land at the intersection of Riverside and Pleasant Valley as an ideal site for a public plaza. Even lower-hanging fruit: improved pedestrian crossings, a network of bicycle lanes, completion of Country Club Creek Trail, and stepped-up crime reduction. Those relatively affordable projects should “get on the list, now” for the city’s **Strategic Mobility Plan**, the November transportation bond package, and city department 2010-2011 budgets. If Austinites see that happen, they might actually start to believe that grand urban plans make a difference.

But other key recommendations need a bracing slap of reality. The plan calls for new “design-based” zoning for the corridor, to be written by city staff; what it really needs is a form-based code professionally written to hard real-estate market data. (The master plan lacks any economic analysis or direction on value-capture – a glaring omission.) It also calls for creating a density-bonus system, in which developers would earn additional height around transit stops (beyond the 60 feet already allowed) by funding parks and affordable housing and even transit facilities. But as a primary funding mechanism, that’s a pipe dream. Survey respondents

were quite cool to high-rise construction on East Riverside, and they’re right – midrise construction is more compatible, provides plenty of added density, and yields far more affordable homes. (A separate issue is whether rail transit needs more density to be economically feasible.) The **Downtown Austin Plan’s** economic analysis of density bonuses has shown (though no one wants to believe it) that commercial density bonuses simply don’t make economic sense on Congress Avenue – so they sure won’t attract high-rise hotels or office towers to East Riverside.

The city needs to get real, instead, about a solid financing plan for public improvements – e.g., a value-capture mechanism, such as tax-increment financing – to attract private investment. As one workshop participant put it: “I hate to be negative, but some ideas seem very ‘pie in the sky,’ and this area needs realistic solutions that can be funded and implemented.”

For more information, visit www.cityofaustin.org/urbandesign/riversideplan.htm.

THE PROMISE OF PLANNING Can the city deliver on East Riverside?

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

“I truly believe this can be the next ‘SoCo’ – even the history of S. Congress was an area with a lot of crime, drugs, prostitution, etc. – now look at it.”

“Let’s do this! Currently it is a real eyesore.”

“What can we do to make this happen?”

Austinites shared the comments above – on an ambitious city master plan for transforming East Riverside Drive – nearly a year and a half ago, at community visioning workshops. The planning effort, led by **A. Nelesen Associates Inc.**, drew enthusiastic public response. Hundreds of people attended the four-hour workshops and other meetings (contributing over 1,600 volunteer hours), submitted nearly 600 surveys (English and Spanish), and shared their insights. The city spent more than \$180,000 on the consultant and invested countless staff hours. Today (Feb. 11) the plan documenting that massive act of faith finally comes back to City Council for a 10:30am public briefing by Anton Nelesen. On Feb. 25, council may act to adopt the **East Riverside Corridor Master Plan**. But once adopted, how does it become real?

“The draft master plan hinges on the premise that rail transit will run down Riverside Drive, between I-35 and Ben White, and on out to the airport,” we reported last July (“New Urbanism Comes to East Riverside,” July 3, 2009). “Leveraging the transformational powers of transit-oriented development, the corridor plan shows East Riverside losing its car focus (e.g., a blur of parking lots and strip shopping centers) in favor of a people focus (attractive places to walk, recreate, eat, shop, and live).” The plan’s vision statement describes a reborn corridor steeped in New Urbanist virtues – compact, human-scaled, pedestrian-friendly, and bikeable, with mixed-use town centers around transit stations, generous open space, and a green network – to help boost regional sustainability and reduce travel by car.

In leading the community down this rosy planning path, the city made an implicit promise. Now it needs to show it can deliver. As in the current comprehensive plan process (see “Imagining Austin,” Jan. 29), the East Riverside planners asked Austinites to rally around solutions of citywide and regional importance. As in the new corridor initiative for Airport Boulevard (see “Reinventing Airport Boulevard,” Jan. 8), they seek to harness rail transit as an economic and placemaking engine for an area’s rebirth. To build citizen trust and confidence in the comprehensive plan, it is incumbent upon the city to prove that planning matters by turning vision into reality on Riverside.

A BETTER FUTURE

But how do we know Austinites want to see East Riverside Drive change? Erica Leak, the city’s lead planner on the East Riverside Corridor Master Plan, cited a thick stack of survey forms, filled out by about 140 people who attended two community visioning workshops in August and September 2008. (About 160 people also attended the November 2008 public meeting, which presented concept plans and asked “Did We Get It Right?”) She pointed as well to the results of a Visual Preference Survey, which about 450 people took online. Overwhelmingly, they gave thumbs-down to photos of East Riverside now and thumbs-up to images of vibrant “people places” with wide sidewalks, trees, and shops and cafes that meet the street. In addition, 77% supported the idea of infill redevelopment in mixed-use “nodes” around transit stops.

Reading people’s handwritten survey comments proved surprisingly moving – they reflect a pent-up yearning for a much safer, nicer place. At the same time, current low-income residents in Montopolis and along East Riverside worry that improvements – however well-meaning – would price them out. “I understand growth is inevitable and vital,” as one put it. “We are plan-

ning for a better future – unfortunately it will become a wonderful place where I will no longer afford to live.” Other workshop participants said the transformation couldn’t come fast enough. “Just make it clean and safe, soon”; “Let’s get on the list, Now!!”; “It needs to happen – and soon”; “Get it going!”; “Looks great! How many years until this will be effectively underway?”

Three years have dragged by since the originating council resolution, so the city needs to show brisk progress. “A catalyst project can demonstrate commitment to realizing the plan; it provides a tangible example of the vision and encourages similar efforts on the part of other public and private entities,” states the master plan’s Section 8: Implementation. At the top of the list is **rail transit**, which still could be a decade away. (The Transportation Department is doing its own separate corridor study for East Riverside.) Also prioritized, to seed a first “node,” is a **Pleasant Valley Transit Plaza**; for now, it could offer enhanced bus and bus rapid transit service. (Doug Allen at **Capital Metro** said bus rapid transit on East Riverside potentially could receive needed federal funding within a couple of years.)

In Search of Austin’s New Green Chief

Austinites helped shape the hiring criteria for the city’s **chief sustainability officer** at a Feb. 5 public meeting. Scott Reilly, CEO of executive-search firm Affion Public, told attendees that because the CSO will be directly reporting to the city manager, the position can have a substantive impact on all municipal operations and the community as a whole. The CSO (an increasingly popular position with cities and corporations) will oversee all issues related to the city’s consumption of resources, its environmental impact, and its carbon footprint – from purchasing to recycling, energy conservation to vehicle miles traveled. The meeting drew business and high tech representatives as well as environmental activists. Among the points made: With “sustainability” as council’s overarching theme for the comprehensive plan in progress, this hire needs to be made ASAP. Reilly anticipates interviews in April and a decision in May, and that the CSO will eventually oversee a department or decentralized staff based in key city departments; he also said Austin Climate Protection Program Director Ester Matthews will retire this year (which presumably favors a merger of sustainability and climate efforts). A job description reflecting the community input will be posted on the city’s eCareer website in about a week; the human resources contact is edna.santos@ci.austin.tx.us.

– K.G.

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Heritage Tree Ordinance Takes Root

It's now a little harder to cut down a tree in Austin. In a unanimous vote last week, the City Council passed a so-called **Heritage Tree Ordinance**, which aims to tighten restrictions on the cutting of very large, mature trees.

Trees with a trunk diameter of 19 inches or more were already considered protected trees in Austin, but neighborhood and environmental activists complained that the ordinance lacked teeth. Developers and others who might want a large tree removed, they said, could simply chop the tree and hope not to get caught or pay the fine as a cost of doing business, and city staff was too quick to grant variances. So last week, after a two-hour public hearing (preceded by months of being vetted by various boards and commissions), the council approved an ordinance creating the category of heritage trees, defined as 24 inches or greater in diameter. It was, according to Mayor **Lee Leffingwell**, the first updating of the tree protection ordinance in 27 years.

Heritage trees can now only be removed if granted a waiver by the director of the Planning and Development Review Department; that waiver can only be granted if the applicant has already been denied other variances that would eliminate the need for the tree's removal, or if removal would result in "maximum ecological service" or "cultural value" from the trees preserved.

And if the tree in question is larger than 30 inches in diameter, it gets even harder: The same conditions still apply, but it would require a hearing before and permission from the city's Land Use Commission. (It's still hard to say if the new ordinance will stop illegal cutting, however, as the city says it's prohibited by state law from levying a fine of greater than \$2,000 per tree.)

That latter point was the key point of contention at the Feb. 4 public hearing, with developers – led by the **Real Estate Council of Austin** – arguing that hearings could result in decisions being made for political reasons, rather than professional ones, and that trees could simply become proxies for bashing unpopular developments. "RECA has consistently voiced its support of a heritage tree ordinance with stronger removal requirements, stronger mitigation, and stronger enforcement," RECA Vice President Jeff Howard told the council. "In fact, we actually support much, if not most, of the ordinance that's in front of you tonight." However, Howard argued that homeowners plant the new urban forest through reforestation, and that simply being large isn't enough – "heritage tree" should refer only to "iconic" trees. Anything less, he warned, could result in hundreds of hearings per year, overburdening staff and adding to homebuyers' costs.

Architect Aan Coleman said she worked on the **Southpark Meadows** shopping center that preserved or transplanted many trees on the site, mostly heritage-size trees, costing \$300,000 in transplants. "Unfortunately, one majestic heritage-size tree was removed," Coleman said. "Just one. This project was awarded the 2007 State of Texas Tree Preservation Award by the Arboriculture Society of Texas and won a 2008 Texas Chapter American Society of Landscape Architecture Award for the same reason. ... But under this new ordinance, this project too would be subject to a public hearing even though it's done that well."

In the end, though, the council ended up more swayed by arguments from environmental activists, some in rebuttal to Howard's points. "This ordinance is not about preserving picture-perfect historic icons for promotional liter-



ature," said Corey Walton, president of the **Austin Neighborhoods Council**, though he was signed up as "neutral" on the ordinance. "It's about the economic value in preserving the superior functioning benefits that these trees provide in terms of erosion control, shade and air quality compliance, and, yes, property values and enhancements." Shannon Halley, vice chair of the **Urban Forestry Board**, echoed that point and added, "Trees or no trees, people will oppose unpopular developments, and rather than oppose ordinances that promote our values as a city, maybe [RECA] should try to spend more time creating less unpopular developments."

The council ended up adding amendments that were stronger than staff recommendations, including eliminating provisions that made the law more lax on city utilities, requiring a monthly report by the city arborist to the Urban Forestry Board, and allowing multiple stems to count toward the 24 inches, rather than just a single one.

The ordinance came as a relief to Central Austin doyenne **Dorothy Richter**. "I'm getting too old to stand out in front of a bulldozer, as I did 20 years ago at the Hyde Park Fire Station," she told the council, to great applause.

– Lee Nichols

Texas Trademark War UT vs. iTexas

Working in the rapidly advancing field of smart-phone computing, local start-up **Mutual Mobile** has developed several popular **iPhone applications**. Finger Tangle, a *Twister*-like game for your digits, has been downloaded some 200,000 times. Are They Really Single and Stud or Dud cull legal records for background info on prospective partners. Hang Time, an altitude-gauging app that encourages users to throw their iPhones in the air, was named one of *PC World*'s "most idiotic" apps – which, of course, drove more downloads. But attorneys for the **University of Texas** are paying unwanted attention to one of Mutual Mobile's newest apps, raising questions about the breadth of UT's trademark claims in the process.

The app in question is **iTexas**, an iPhone app that addresses day-to-day concerns of UT undergrads. Due to university objections, it could get dropped from Apple's app store any minute. "It's a ticking clock," says **Tarun Nimmagadda**, co-founder of Mutual Mobile.

Nimmagadda has been in this situation before. In late 2009, Mutual launched UT Directory, which made the unwieldy staff and student directories easy to search. The university complained to Apple, and the app was removed. Nimmagadda concedes the company may have overstepped: The burnt-orange

color scheme and "UT" in the title gave the app the look of having an official imprimatur it didn't carry. Mutual then released the more ambitious iTexas. A free download, the app retains the searchable directory but also lists menus from different cafeterias across campus, tallies students' dining-card and Bevo Bucks balances, delivers class schedules, shows campus maps, and more. By scrubbing the Longhorn colors and changing the name, Nimmagadda says, they were convinced they'd developed an app with "everything objectionable removed."

Not quite. On Feb. 1, the Mutual team learned that UT had raised another objection to its latest app, specifically to the use of the word "Texas" in the name. "As this name is confusingly similar to the Texas [trademark], UT objects to such use," reads a notice sent to the Apple app store by attorney **Wendy Larson**. UT's board of regents began trademarking university properties back in 1981. A list of protected trademarks appears on the university **Office of Trademark Licensing** Web page; alongside more specific trademarks such as Bevo and Lady Longhorns is, simply, Texas. The trademarks protect the massive revenues Texas sports merchandise generates; for the fourth year running, UT was the top-selling university brand in fiscal year 2009, according to the Collegiate Licensing Co., which oversees a majority of college teams.



It didn't help Mutual Mobile that on Jan. 5, the day it released iTexas, UT released its own official iPhone app. But the two appear to be truly separate applications serving different needs. While UT's app contains an abundance of sports info and press releases, iTexas is tailored to quotidian student concerns – wait lists for classes, grades, and what's for lunch that day. The standoff has put Mutual – a company practically all composed of UT grads – in an awkward position with its alma mater. **Mickey Ristroph**, another Mutual co-founder, says, "Until this, I never thought of UT as something other than all of us, all the people who make it."

Larson's complaint asks Apple to "require that the developer rename the application, and ... release the app name to UT." Nimmagadda says the company will rename iTexas if it's dropped from the app store, although it's a headache. He would have preferred that UT approach them directly so that Mutual Mobile could rename the app near instantly through an update; instead, UT complained to Apple, meaning that Mutual must reapply to Apple and go through a weeks-long approval process. Besides, this not being their first skirmish with the university, Nimmagadda says, "We are a little nervous" that the app ultimately might be rejected for good. "We hope it's not a situation where this is just another arrow in their quiver," he says of UT's trademark claim, "and if we fix this, it's something else. We don't have unlimited resources."

– Wells Dunbar



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The Rag in the Modern World

Olde Ragsters revive in a Digital Age

BY KEVIN BRASS

For most of us, the **underground press movement** of the Sixties exists as little more than myth and legend, tall tales of radical journalists throwing bombs at the establishment in the form of wild, drug-induced articles and freaky cartoons. For a brief period, art, culture, and politics converged in cheaply produced newspapers, which were often amateurish, repeatedly offensive, and passionately devoured by anyone under 30 who thought Tricky Dick Nixon was a sweaty weasel.

In Austin, **The Rag** was a firebrand little troublemaker that grew out of the University of Texas in 1966 and then spent 11 years spraying lighter fluid on local culture. A seminal influence in the national underground press movement, it served as Austin's primary link to the Students for a Democratic Society, SDS' offspring the Weathermen, naked hippies, Jerry Rubin, and a generation of hygiene-ambivalent kids trying to change the world in their own dippy way.

Flash forward three decades, and *The Rag* is back. Instead of selling for 20 cents on the Drag, *The Rag* now exists as a blog and a radio show on KOOP-FM, part of an effort to revive some of the rabble-rousing counterculture spirit of the Sixties.

"There are a lot of similarities in the two eras," said **Thorne Dreyer**, the editor of the **Rag Blog**, who dropped out of UT in the Sixties to fight the fight and work on the original *Rag*.

OPENING THE PERSPECTIVES

With Dreyer as "funnel," the Rag Blog (www.theragblog.blogspot.com) keeps up a steady stream of essays and articles covering everything from the travails of the American Civil Liberties Union to the passing of historian and social activist Howard Zinn. Headlines trumpet, "Is America Already a Failed State?" and "Health Care and Campaign Finance: The Corporate Stranglehold" – "Brought to you," the site proclaims, "by the miracle of functioning anarchy." Regular contributors include Dick Reavis, Jim Retherford, Alan Pogue, Roger Baker, Harvey Wasserman, Gregg Barrios, Paul Buhle, and a host of other writers and artists with lengthy pedigrees in progressive media.

They're working in a media landscape light-years removed from the offset printing presses of their youth. While the original *Rag* would be lucky to sell 15,000 copies on Austin street corners, the 3-year-old Rag Blog attracts 45,000 unique visitors a month, drawing comments from Russia, Japan, and all parts of the globe. On any given day, a Rag post might pingpong through the digital atmosphere, creating the type of traffic the kids of the Sixties couldn't imagine, not even with the right psychedelics.

To oversee the new Rag, a core group of old Ragsters formed a nonprofit organization, the **New Journalism Project**, which hopes

to reach across generations and cultivate young journalists. "We're looking to keep expanding the variety of perspectives, including some that might be hard to find if you rely on the mainstream media," said **Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte**, an associate professor at UT who serves as president of the nonprofit's board. "The Digital Age provides opportunities to create a product that mirrors the goals of the Sixties."

There are, as Dreyer notes, similarities in the eras. Much as in the Sixties, the Rag is re-emerging at a time of extreme political polarization, when progressives are increasingly disillusioned and isolated. Media is as ubiquitous as water these days, yet many lefties feel as though they have no voice, despite the growth of Daily Kos, the Huffington Post, and other liberal outlets. The rantings of Olbermann and Matthews seem no more relevant or interesting to the movement than the babblings of Hannity and Beck.

"Keith Olbermann doesn't represent my political perspective," said UT journalism professor **Robert Jensen**, a prolific author and Rag contributor who describes himself as "anti-capitalistic" and "anti-empire." "There's no political party that represents us and no media outlet that represents us."

If the progressive movement seemed marginalized in the Sixties, that's even truer today. Terms like "socialist" and "liberal" have become meaningless slurs in the political dialogue. Any connection to the radicalism of the past is political dynamite, evidenced by the way **Barack Obama** was demonized for his past association with professor and social activist **Bill Ayers** (whose articles have appeared on the Rag Blog) – for things Ayers allegedly said or did decades ago.

If anything, it's harder than ever for the radical press, the true lefties, to influence the dialogue. As the Sixties raged, *The Rag* could whip up a crowd to protest the tyranny of library cards. Today the Rag Blog can engage readers in Uzbekistan, but it's tough to create a ripple in the media ocean, unless they're taking on the frenzy du jour, screaming about the use of the word "retard" or debating whether the president is a socialist, fascist, or just a really sneaky Kenyan Nazi.

It's a Zen koan of the YouTube era: When everyone has a megaphone, it's impossible to be heard.

"There's just too much noise," Dreyer said. "You have to find ways to make a real connection." The original *Rag* was founded on the idea of unabashedly marrying activism and journalism, a concept that seems almost quaint now. Everybody preaches to the choir these days.



The Rag's
Thorne Dreyer
on the radio

BIG PLANS

With a straight face, it could be argued that it's the **tea party movement** that's staking out the anti-establishment, counterculture media turf these days. The tea baggers may believe that Obama is the spawn of the devil, God is personally writing scripts for Fox News, and Sarah Palin is intellectually stimulating, but they're the ones taking to the streets and changing the dialogue, not progressives.

It's Bizarro World for progressives. Instead of helping the progressive movement, the democratization of media has led to little progress, in terms of breaking the media power structure. The original *Rag* "may not have had the circulation, but it had a personal impact," said **Alice Embree**, one of the original Rag crew who now sits on the board of the nonprofit. "We're losing that sense of community people used to have, and I don't know if digital media makes up for that."

For Dreyer, 64, a self-described "old doofus," editing the Rag Blog has been an education in the new media. On several occasions, right-wing sites have picked up Rag articles and twisted them for their own purposes, he says. And in contrast to the communal, all-for-one sharing days of the Sixties, not all liberal writers and illustrators have been happy about finding their work used without compensation on the Rag's site. ("We

send them a link," Dreyer said. "If anybody doesn't want us to run it, we'll take it down.")

Plans call for the Rag to shed its limited blog format and expand into a full website. The New Journalism Project is also trying to raise grant money and generate funds for new programs. The focus is on bringing new voices into the project, especially young journalists.

While the old *Rag* was known for its free-flowing prose, ignoring conventions of grammar and taste, Dreyer wants the new Rag to traffic above the fray. "I'm more concerned about offending people," he said. "The shock aspect of the underground press is not what I'm going to be into doing."

As a result, in another ironic twist, it's the old hippies who come off as reasoned and informed, at least compared to the slogan-chanting right. Many Rag articles seem downright homey when placed alongside the rantings of radio circus acts like Alex Jones and Michael Savage. "I want to reach more people," Dreyer said. "And I want to reach them in a calmer way. I want to have a real discourse." If that sounds like a very un-Rag-like statement, Dreyer says the new Rag is "informed" by the underground press movement, but it is, in fact, a new era.

"There is a different sense of how to communicate," Dreyer said. "We're not crazy rebels now. We're something more sophisticated." ■

The MRF Turns: Free Recycling!

The question of whether **Greenstar North America** and **Texas Disposal Systems** violated the city's lobbying ordinance took a strange turn recently as TDS made what could be an end run around the city's bidding process. On Jan. 27, both firms were disqualified from bidding on the contract to build a **materials recovery facility** to handle Austin's **single-stream recycling** (the firms had sent letters to city staff, actions the city determined to be in violation of anti-lobbying rules; see "Muffling the MRF," Feb. 5). On Feb. 5, Greenstar's representatives attended a meeting with a hearing officer, who now has until Feb. 15 to recommend to city purchasing officer Byron Johnson whether the company's bid should remain excluded. Meanwhile, the city ruled TDS' disqualification moot after the company told city staff that it had never intended to file an application in the first place. Gregory wrote in a Feb. 9 letter to council that "it became abundantly clear during the protest process" that, if his firm submitted a bid, it could not communicate with the city about any recycling issues. So instead of bidding on the current contract, Gregory proposed council amend TDS' existing 30-year waste disposal and yard trimmings processing contract – to include a MRF. Not that Austin is lacking for potential contractees: At the close of bidding on Feb. 9, seven firms had submitted a total of eight proposals that could have a city MRF open as early as August 2011.

– Richard Whittaker

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In Search of the Missing Time Capsule

Whenever a new building appears on the Austin skyline or an existing office changes hands, there are cries that another bit of Austin history is disappearing. The tale of one time capsule, buried three decades ago, shows just how difficult it can be to preserve that history.

Back in 1981, local architect **John Davison** made a contribution – three bumper stickers he and his wife had designed – to a time capsule that was then buried at the old Chase bank building at 700 Lavaca. Last December, Davison was passing the site and saw that the plaza was being repaired. Fearing accidental damage, he said, he “spent the rest of the day trying to assure the capsule could be saved and relocated to a safe place.” As the locator plaque was gone, he contacted city staff and the **Austin History Center** for the capsule’s exact whereabouts. He was eventually informed by the **Downtown Austin Alliance** that it had actually been dug up about three years earlier.

So where had it gone? The capsule was now in the **JPMorgan Chase** vaults, and as far as the bank is concerned, they’ve been good stewards of a piece of history they inherited. The capsule was initially buried by Texas Commerce Bank, which was acquired by Chemical Bank in 1986, which acquired Chase Manhattan in 1996, and Chase acquired JP Morgan & Co. in 2000. All the while, the time capsule sat undisturbed and generally unnoticed – until 2004, when the owners (now JPMorgan Chase) bought out Bank One and its offices on Sixth Street. In 2005, the Bank One sign came down, the JPMorgan Chase sign went up, and the bank moved its offices – along with the capsule.

Fast-forward to last December: The workers Davison saw on the Lavaca plaza were

actually working for owner **Travis Realty Corp.**, which has since sold the building to Travis County, and the time capsule was long gone. According to bank spokesman **Greg Hassell**, “The building manager said, ‘You guys are moving out; you should take the time capsule with you.’” The contents, he said, include “stuff that employees gave, annual reports, newspaper clippings, not real earth-shattering. ... It’s not something that would probably be interesting to anyone outside of our organization.”

When it comes to tracking the city’s buried history, there can be more at stake than just lost stickers. In 2008, 4,000 gallons of heating oil washed out of an old tank in a back alley behind the Littlefield Building and into Waller Creek (see “City Still Cleaning Up Waller,” Jan. 25, 2008). It took three months and a deep search of the city archives to work out who originally put the tank there, and then another five months and a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality review to judge who was legally culpable. At the time, staff at the **Watershed Protection and Development Review Department** expressed surprise that such environmental accidents aren’t more common, considering the number of old and undocumented tanks, pipes, and cables around town and the number of new buildings on top of old foundations. Even well-documented buried history can be a headache: **Ester Matthews** of the **Austin Climate Protection Program** explained that the old Butler landfill in the westerly corner of Zilker Park “continues to cause problems for us.” Fixing those problems isn’t cheap: On Dec. 17, council approved a \$390,177 contract with **J.R. Schneider Construction** to build erosion controls and a drainage channel.



JANA BIRCHUM

John Davison, with a sample of old Austin memorabilia

Even if documents are saved, there’s the question of where to put them. The Austin History Center is the main repository for city records but has a small acquisitions budget. On top of that, the center receives around 90 feet of donated documents every year. “The volume of material that comes in far outpaces our ability to make any sense with it,” said center manager **Mike Miller**. To keep up, the center has adopted what the Society of American Archivists calls the “more product, less process” standard: Instead of rigorously cataloguing every page and paperclip, Miller said, the aim is “to get a basic description and be comfortable with the idea that a little bit is better than nothing

at all.” While the Internet makes access to old files easier for researchers, it’s not a cure-all: A piece of paper can last for centuries, said Miller, but because of changes in technology and file formats, “the average life span for digital media is five years.”

For now, the time capsule contents are safe in a vault, but Davison disagrees with Hassell’s depiction of the artifacts as “bank tchotchkes.” He said, “As far as I recall, the city called me and asked me to put our contributions in it” and said that creating the capsule “was a really big hoopla.” While he was glad to know it hadn’t just been discarded, Davison said, “I really am disappointed in the reaction.”

– Richard Whittaker



UT President
Bill Powers

JOHN ANDERSON

UT Budget Cuts The buck stops where?

While the **Save the Cactus Cafe** group held its inaugural meeting at Maria’s Taco Xpress Feb. 6, the University of Texas administration was scrambling to back the student body and the **Texas Union board** over their decision to close the venue and terminate the **informal classes** program. Calling the board “the voice of the campus,” President **Bill Powers** said, “It is my understanding that the board was in full consultation” over the decision. The core issue, he added, was that “this isn’t the life sciences building; it’s the student union,” and so decisions about the future of the space and the program should lie with the student body.

However, the idea that the matter had indeed been a full board decision backed by students is taking a hammering. On Feb. 9, *The Daily Texan* reported that, according to Students Event Center President **Andrew Nash**, the only member of the body who knew about the plan in advance of the Jan. 29 meeting was Student Government President

Liam O’Rourke, and he failed to share that information with his fellow members. Board member **Thomas Garza** – one of Powers’ three appointees to the advisory body – told the *Chronicle* (see “Off the Record,” p.57) that neither he nor any other faculty member was present at the Jan. 29 meeting where the closures were discussed and a subset of the board backed (without a vote) the plan presented by longtime Union Executive Director **Andy Smith**.

“My understanding is that this was a regular meeting of the board that [Garza] was informed of,” said Powers. “If that’s incorrect, then that’s an issue that needs to be addressed.” Powers said that he has not spoken to any board members other than O’Rourke. While he has no plans to organize a meeting with them either individually or collectively, he said: “That advisory board is fully capable of giving me whatever advice they want to give. ... If they think I have misinterpreted that advice, they can let me know.”

– R.W.

the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

AGRIBUSINESS, MUTANT GERMS, AND US

America is under assault. From coast to coast, we are being invaded by horrific, body-consuming mutants that are already destroying 65,000 American lives a year. As a Duke University scientist puts it: "This is a living, breathing problem. ... It's here. It's arrived."

These are not invaders from Mars but from within our own countryside. Ironically, these are mutants of our own creation, leaving America face-to-face with a spreading plague of drug-resistant germs.

For decades, we have benefited enormously from the healing wonders of antibiotics. These drugs save millions of lives that would otherwise be lost to microbial infections. But more and more of the antibiotics in America's medical kit are proving to be ineffective against the plethora of germs that endanger us. Why? Too much of a good thing.

America has overdosed on antibiotics, using about 35 million pounds a year – so much that germs, which are savvy survivors, have rapidly been mutating to develop resistance to the drugs. Thus, drug-resistant microbes now kill more Americans than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.

Why have we overdosed so badly? Because the bulk of the drugs used in our country do not go to protect humans but to protect the profits of agribusiness corporations! Seventy percent of antibiotics go to chickens, cows, and pigs – either as stimulants to force the animals to grow faster or to fight rampant infections largely caused by unsanitary, factory-farm practices.

This senseless profiteering at the expense of our health is insane, and there's a push in Congress to stop it. But lobbyists for Dow, Eli Lilly, Monsanto, Pfizer, and others are out to kill any reform ... and to let the germs keep killing us. To support common sense, visit www.saveantibiotics.org.

A GOP LEADER'S ECONOMIC PLAN

Those who say that Republican Congress critters are just a gaggle of naysaying bone-heads with no economic plan of their own have not been listening to John Linder.

This Georgia right-winger is irked that America's food stamp program will grow to more than \$60 billion this year. "This is craziness," Linder barked to a *New York Times* reporter. "We're at risk of creating an entire class of people, a subset of people, just comfortable getting by living off the government."

Comfortable? When was the last time this pampered lawmaker experienced the "comforts" of the food stamp life? Linder's been "living off the government" for 18 years, but at the high end – drawing \$174,000 a year in pay, plus subsidized health care and a fat pension.

So what's his economic plan? "You improve the economy by lowering taxes," he explains. That's his whole plan!

Perhaps this multimillionaire has forgotten that Washington tried that plan throughout the last decade – a decade in which there was no net-job creation, wages plummeted, middle-class incomes went down, health care costs soared, housing prices tumbled, and millions of families fell into poverty.

So that "subset of people" on food stamps whom Linder denigrates are actually his own spawn! The food stamp program has had to grow because the tinkle-down economy that he pushed wrecked America's middle class.

Indeed, talk about a subset, there are now some 6 million Americans who are living entirely on food stamps – they've lost their jobs and have no other income. That's one in every 50 of us, and the number continues to grow rapidly.

Linder and his ilk have not hesitated to throw hundreds of billions of our tax dollars at failed Wall Street bankers. But he would take the food out of the mouths of people in real need. That's not a plan; it's a scandal.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown – visit www.jimhightower.com. You can hear his radio commentaries on KOOP Radio, 91.7FM, weekdays at 10:58am and 12:58pm.

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PRIMARY INTELLIGENCE

LOCAL RACES

BY THE NEWS STAFF

Political Dust Clouds 201st: Patterson vs. Meachum

In the race to replace retiring Judge Suzanne Covington on the civil bench of Travis County's 201st District Court, there's no question that Democrat Jan Patterson, currently a judge on the state's 3rd Court of Appeals, has the most experience. Patterson, who began her career as a civil litigator in New York before becoming a federal prosecutor there, has served on the bench of what has been the state's most important appellate court since 1999. All that experience is undeniable and impressive, but Patterson is also the candidate carrying the most political liability.

In July 2009, Patterson wrote a letter to Gov. Rick Perry asking that he consider her for appointment to the county's 353rd Judicial District Civil court, suddenly vacant after the untimely death of Judge Scott Ozmun. Although it was already generally known that Patterson planned to step down from the 3rd Court to run for the local bench in 2010, the idea that she would consider stepping down more than a year before the election caught the Democratic faithful off-guard – and angered quite a few.

The objection was frankly political and largely strategic. The 3rd Court considers appeals from state agencies and handles ethics cases, among other important duties, and in recent years it's been at the center of major political cases. Patterson's early retirement would allow Perry the chance to replace her with a Republican (making the court 4-2 GOP) who would enter the fall 2010 campaign carrying incumbency – and a major ID and fundraising advantage. (In the end, Perry appointed Republican Jeff Rose to the seat, reportedly after state Sen. Kirk

Watson privately let the Governor's Office know that he would block Patterson's move. Watson would not discuss his conversations on the appointment.)

Beyond this political dispute, more pointed questions were raised about Patterson's backroom handling of the matter. When the *Chronicle* initially reported the story in October, Patterson said that Perry's office had pursued her for the appointment; the Governor's Office later told us that was not true and, after open records requests, released Patterson's two letters requesting the appointment. Patterson initially said the requests never happened; after the publi-

cation of the letters, she said they were written at the request of the Governor's Office. In the wake of the episode, former state Rep. Glen Maxey filed a formal ethics complaint against Patterson with the State Commission on Judicial Conduct. Rightly or wrongly, the controversy has shadowed Patterson's race for the Travis court and has given her opponent, civil litigator Amy Clark Meachum, a decided political edge. Indeed, without Patterson's precipitating attempt to jump benches, it's likely that she would have drawn no opponent for a lower bench. Now she's in a fight to survive.

If campaign contributions are any measure, Meachum's star is on the rise; she added roughly \$19,000 to her war chest in January, against roughly \$15,400 for Patterson. Meachum, a

This week, the *Chronicle* News staff kicks off coverage of the March 2 primaries with a look at high-interest races in Travis County. Next week, we'll take a closer look at the statewide races. For our editorial board endorsements, see p.8; for ongoing coverage, see austinchronicle.com/elections.

PHOTOS BY JANA BIRCHUM



Amy Clark Meachum



Jan Patterson

JUDICIAL
races

partner with McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore who represents both plaintiffs and defendants in civil litigation, has no bench experience but has earned the endorsements of Democratic clubs (plus the

Austin Black Lawyers Association and Hispanic Bar Association of Austin) and has racked up the support of many area legislators (including Watson and Austin Reps. Eddie Rodriguez, Mark Strama, and Valinda Bolton) and a host of local officials (including Travis County Attorney David Escamilla and Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell). Patterson, meanwhile, also lists Strama among her supporters, along with state Rep. Donna Howard and former District Attorney Ronnie Earle.

To Meachum, her experience trying cases on both sides of the docket distinguishes her candidacy. "These are the courts where my practice has been for the last 10 years," she wrote. She'd like to see the courts reduce filing fees for low-income people and wants to institute a mentoring program pairing young lawyers with indigent clients. "There are instances where costs limit access" to the courts, she wrote. "It is unfair to prohibit parties from having their day in court just because they cannot afford a filing fee." She's current on district court practices, she says, and enjoys the "daily give and take of the district courthouse." Moreover, the trial courts are the "legal trenches, versus the appellate courthouse" where Patterson has spent her career, "which is much more of an ivory tower institution" – that is, largely confined to exchanges of formal briefs and oral arguments.

Patterson counters that it's her experience and proven ability as a judge that makes her the better candidate. "Appellate work makes for better trial work," she says, in part because she understands how to perfect a trial record. And, she says, as a judge she's always "gotten the facts right." Nobody could "suggest that I've ever stretched the facts or gotten the facts not right." In sum, she says, "nobody would have to speculate about what kind of judge I'd be."

Reconsidering the dust-up over her application for appointment to the 353rd Court, Patterson now insists that she never "sought to undermine" the work of the 3rd Court. "I do lament the controversy," she says. "I'll concede perhaps I made a mistake – if I hadn't, I wouldn't be having all of these conversations" about what happened. Still, she says that though she "did contribute to this controversy," any "suggestion that I was not truthful" about what happened "is simply not right."

– Jordan Smith

Innovative Justice: Lipscombe vs. Seelig

The six Travis County Criminal Courts at Law handle an enormous number of misdemeanor cases – including drunken driving, thefts, and minor drug charges. That means they're the courts where, quite often, a person can have his first experience with the wrong side of the criminal justice system; as a consequence, they're also the courts where bad habits are confirmed or, instead, there is good opportunity, at least in principle, to divert defendants from becoming repeat customers.

That's how John Lipscombe, candidate for judge of County Court at Law No. 3, sees it. Many of the people that come through the county courts have made a "mistake," he says. "Mistakes don't make a person 'bad.'" Lipscombe should know: He's spent the last 19 years as an assistant Travis

County attorney and says that in that time he's done his best to help defendants find redemption and avoid unnecessary jail time. Lipscombe says that as a judge he'd like to establish what he calls a "gapper" court: a special evening court setting for defendants age 18-24, who are adults under the law but whose minds and therefore impulse control (according to the latest research) are not yet fully developed. The docket would consider young adults with nonviolent offenses (particularly drug and alcohol cases) and provide counseling and other services in an attempt to get them straight without having to be saddled with a criminal

conviction. Lipscombe says he's been inspired by County Judge Elisabeth Earle's DWI court and that he has already recruited six local psychologists willing to donate counseling services for his specialty docket. Noting that it takes 40% less money "to rehabilitate than to incarcerate," Lipscombe says that finding alternatives to jail makes both good fiscal sense and good public policy.

Olga Seelig, Lipscombe's opponent, agrees that alternatives to incarceration are the future of criminal justice – in fact, she says, she's been studying alternatives since she was an undergraduate criminal justice major at the University of Texas – El Paso. "It's very simple to just say, 'Look, we have to put you behind bars,'" she says. "There's no doubt it's easy. It's not cost effective, but it's easy." Seelig began working with the El Paso County Public Defender's Office while in law school, then became an assistant county attorney before going into private practice doing both civil work and criminal defense. In 2006, she was appointed to the city of Austin's municipi-

pal court bench, where she has presided over class C misdemeanor cases – violations of traffic laws and city ordinances that carry the possibility for penalties but not jail time – as well as handling search warrant requests by police, among other duties. (As it happens, it was Seelig who set the \$8,000 bond for Nathaniel Sanders II just four days before he was shot and killed by police, even though at the time he was granted bail, he was wanted for a failure to appear in court in connection with another case. Seelig says that because of gaps in courthouse records, she was unaware that there was an outstanding warrant for Sanders' arrest at the time she set bail, and she has worked since to get those information problems fixed.)

Seelig says she too would like to expand specialty courts to divert defendants from jail and in particular would like to expand the mental health court docket begun in the felony court of Judge Julie Kocurek and County Court Judge Nancy Hohengarten. Expanding that docket is "really crucial," she says. "A lot of these people with mental illness [also have] chronic substance abuse" issues and use drugs to self-medicate. In an effort to stop that cycle, she says, she'd like the court to work "closer and in tandem" with organizations – such as Austin Travis County Integral Care – to get people the services they need. "People want to see us clean up our act," she says. "We should be a civil society, not just one that ... says, 'Cage

these people because they're just animals.'"

Although Lipscombe and Seelig publicly agree on many aspects of court administration and innovative justice, the race between the two Democrats has not been consistently congenial. Seelig supporters have attacked Lipscombe online – in letters to the *Chronicle* and on the Dem-oriented blog *Burnt Orange Report* – arguing (by rumor) that he is, essentially, a political bully. Lipscombe says he has heard far worse rumors during this campaign, including attacks on his personal life. As of yet, there has been no similar mudslinging against Seelig.

Curiously, when asked whether she thought she had any responsibility for reinventing in unfair or inaccurate accusations made by her supporters, Seelig demurred, saying only that she wasn't personally responsible for saying anything negative about Lipscombe. "That's not the person I am, who I would be on the bench, or have been on the bench."

— Jordan Smith



Olga Seelig



John Lipscombe



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The Baird Successor: Crowded Field Jockeys for 299th

Travis County District Court Judge Charlie Baird's December decision – just days before the primary filing period began – that he would not seek re-election to the 299th Criminal District court came as a surprise to most courthouse watchers. Baird, who hasn't always had the friendliest of relationships with prosecutors (or, for that matter, the defense bar), had nonetheless developed a reputation as an out-of-the-box thinker, unafraid to try new things in the pursuit of justice – like the use of GPS tracking for defendants, thereby enabled to get out of jail on bond. Moreover, though there had been plenty of talk in 2009 about the emergence of a possible direct dark-horse Democratic challenger to Baird's bench, none materialized. Had he decided to stay, he was virtually a lock to keep the seat. But Baird has a young family, and, he said in explaining his decision to retire from the seat he won in 2006, he was ready to return to private practice in order to spend more time at home.

Baird's announcement unleashed a late-cresting flood, and by the January filing deadline, four Dem candidates had entered the race: Assistant District Attorney Karen Sage, who had initially filed against Austin Police Monitor Cliff Brown for the 147th Criminal District Court; former Assistant District Attorney Mindy Montford, who ran unsuccessfully for the D.A. job in 2008; defense attorney Eve Schatelowitz Alcantar; and veteran defense attorney Leonard Martinez. The ballot is, in some ways, an embarrassment of riches for voters. This felony bench handles a heavy and serious docket – of charges including murder, rape, and robbery; as Schatelowitz Alcantar put it, the 299th Court is incredibly important “because life and death issues are decided. It's really that basic.” It is also a bench with a rich history of innovation. Baird's predecessor was Senior District Judge Jon Wisser, who occupied this seat for more than two decades. Wisser was instrumental in setting up the county's drug diversion court, one of the nation's oldest specialty courts for low-level drug offenders. Although each of the candidates describes a distinct vision for the court, each agrees that deciding who best carries forward the tradition of innovation is an important consideration.

The early buzz on the race gives the advantage to Sage and Montford. The Sage campaign was on the ground early, in the 147th race and then the 299th, long before the others had even filed. And Montford is presumed to have the best name ID, with longstanding local Democratic connections as well as her high-profile 2008 D.A. race. By contrast, Schatelowitz Alcantar is relatively inexperienced and unknown politically; Martinez, who also filed late, has a wide-ranging background and long legal career but has been criticized for, at best, inconsistent defense

work. Right now, with four candidates in a downballot primary, a run-off between Sage and Montford seems the likeliest bet.

To Sage, the most important thing about the 299th Court and her candidacy is her commitment to “innovative” justice. “It is time for a change,” she says. She's currently an assistant district attorney and was instrumental in creating the county's new mental health docket. The idea is to identify defendants with mental illness and remove their cases from the court's regular docket and simultaneously connect defendants with services to help meet their special needs; the goal is to break the cycle of involvement with the criminal justice system. Sage grew up in Minnesota and worked as a prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office in eastern New York before taking her current job with the D.A.'s office in 2006. She prosecuted a wide variety of cases – from murder and sexual assault to fraud and other white-collar crimes – but says she's become increasingly interested in “therapeutic justice” where practicable.

Sage says that if elected she would like to try to expand into her court the county's mental health docket. She would also like to explore setting up a “support court” – a special docket for probationers who are having trouble and are facing possible revocation and, as a result, more time in prison. She cut her teeth with the support-court model as a prosecutor in the courtroom of Judge Julie Kocurek (who handles the mental health docket). The idea is to provide “extra judicial support” to struggling probationers in an effort to help them successfully complete their sentences. Sage notes that she is “really the only candidate” in the race actively working on programs for jail and prison diversion. “It's not just talk for me,” she says, “and it's why I'm running.”

Schatelowitz Alcantar says that even if you've never been in trouble before, the decision about who sits on the county's court benches is extremely important. “When sentences are handed down and people are sent to prison, that's a burden on the taxpayer,” she says. And if a person leaves prison without receiving the treatment he or she needs – drug treatment for an addict, for example – “that's also a burden.” Schatelowitz Alcantar has been working as a criminal defense attorney for the last six years, and her father, brother, and husband all work in law enforcement. As a judge, she says, she would try to take a holistic approach to her docket, looking for programs and possibilities to break people from constantly cycling through the criminal justice system. She likes the innovations that Baird has implemented, including the use of GPS tracking for defendants out on bond and the use of electronic alcohol moni-

tors. And she says she would look for every opportunity to get people straight before entering a final felony conviction, which is often a barrier not only to finding work but also to getting housing and education. “The reality,” she says, is that we have to find solutions that are “best for victims, for the community, and for the defendant.”

The cases that come before felony court judges are serious, and, in capital cases, lives are literally on the line. In handling these offenses, Montford believes she has the edge over her opponents. Not only did she work as a prosecutor for nine years but she's now a defense attorney, making her the only candidate with experience on both sides of the bar. “It's crucial that when someone takes the bench they have experience,” she says, and are not “trying to learn from the bench.” Montford, whose father is a former state senator from Lubbock, has also put in time at the Legislature, where she was responsible for drafting legislation that eventually became Texas' life-without-parole sentencing option for capital defendants. (Her campaign has earned the support of a number of heavy-hitting Lege Dems, including Austin state Sen. Kirk Watson.) Montford agrees that fine-tuning the process for greater efficiency is an important part of this bench and says she has demonstrated her commitment to trying new things. While running for D.A. in 2008, Montford was the first to suggest that the office create a 24-hour intake position to help ensure that appropriate charges are filed, a move that D.A. Rosemary Lehmborg recently implemented as a way to help streamline the docket and cut down on unnecessary jail stays. If elected, Montford says, she would work to streamline the court's docket and would be active in trying to identify cases that “warrant special attention,” including cases of child abuse and sexual assault that might merit their own special docket settings. “I have always been someone who advocates for innovation,” she says.

Martinez is the most veteran attorney in this race. He's been a lawyer since 1981 and is board certified in criminal law. The most important issue he'll have to deal with as a judge is “assuring equal justice for those who are indigent or poor,” he wrote in an e-mail, and he says it's important to keep a judge who will continue Baird's approach to “focusing on rehabilitation” for defendants. Martinez, who worked as a nurse and social worker before becoming a lawyer, said that if elected he would approach the job in a “thoughtful and methodical way,” organizing his docket to give priority to people waiting in jail for their cases to be heard, “having time to deal with important contested issues,” and “mediating” between defense and prosecution for nonviolent offenders. “Time is a valuable court resource and must be used in the most productive way possible,” he wrote.

– Jordan Smith

PHOTOS BY JANA BIRCHUM



Eve Schatelowitz Alcantar



Leonard Martinez



Mindy Montford



Karen Sage





JOHN ANDERSON

Margaret Gómez



JANA BIRCHUM

Raul Alvarez

County Commissioner Precinct 4: New Guard vs. Old

Unlike many longtime local Democratic officeholders, Travis County Commissioner Margaret Gómez has never had the luxury of running unopposed in primary elections. Yet beginning with her first run for constable and continuing through each of her four terms on the Commissioners Court, she has always managed to overcome her opponent at the ballot box, thanks in large measure to a reliable voting bloc in Travis Heights, a high-turnout area of educated and reasonably well-off residents. Now Gómez, currently seeking a fifth term, faces possibly her toughest campaign challenge yet in opponent Raul Alvarez, a former City Council member with a history of grassroots activism.

Gómez proudly notes that she's won every political contest by dint of hard work on the campaign trail. "I've always run hard," she says. "I don't take anything for granted." Except for a 1998 challenge from former Commissioner Richard Moya (Gómez's mentor and former boss), the incumbent has typically drawn only token opposition. But Gómez acknowledges she faces a formidable test in Alvarez, given his experience as a two-term City Council member who also served time with Gómez on the Capital Metro board. Unlike her previous primary opponents, Alvarez has already succeeded in siphoning away a good chunk of Gómez's base, including endorsements from labor groups and Democratic clubs — groups that Gómez swept in her 2006 race against Yolanda Montemayor.

The shift in the political wind is evidence of a county that has dramatically changed since Gómez first arrived on the court in 1995. Though the county has no ordinance-making power and very little land-use authority, a new crop of voters has grown weary of the commissioners in general, and Gómez in particular — resigning themselves to the limitations of county government at a time when the economy is in the tank and growth and planning issues have assumed

center stage. In Precinct 4, there's a growing divide between the haves and the have-nots; the demographics vary widely, from new condo dwellers Downtown to low-income residents in Southeast Austin (many who have been priced out of their earlier East Austin neighborhoods by gentrification) to rural areas of southeastern Travis County marching toward urbanization with new roads and new subdivisions.

"The issues are very different now," Alvarez said recently over a cup of soup at Texas French Bread. (By coincidence, Beverly Griffith, his former ally on City Council, happened to be seated at the next table.) Even if the county has little regulatory control, Alvarez argues, "we need to try to identify the best role for the county to help residents improve their quality of life, and we need to encourage more participation in the process."

After 15 years on the court, even Gómez's onetime staunchest supporters — including Hispanic leaders who, for business or political reasons, don't want to be named — say it's time for new blood on the court. "For better or worse," said one graying activist, "we're on our way out. This is a young community, and we really need young leadership."

Alvarez says he was first approached to run against Gómez in 2002, but he had only recently arrived on the City Council and decided to stay put. Then, last summer, he was approached again — this time by Hispanic leaders who were angry over Gómez's role in the controversial firing of two high-level county employees, both of them women, one Hispanic, the other African-American. (For more on that controversy, see "Travis County 'Death Spiral,'" Oct. 2, 2009.) Alvarez was advised early on, however, not to turn the personnel matter into a campaign issue, and he has dutifully stayed out of that fray. He says he first made certain that he "wouldn't get [his] head cut off" if he entered the race and consulted "more than 70" people before

he made his decision. "What it came down to," he told the *Chronicle*, "is that people kept telling me that Margaret has simply lost touch with the community."

Alvarez knew he'd have an uphill battle. "Running against an incumbent is very challenging," he said, "because usually all the money and endorsements are with the incumbent." And a loss to Gómez would represent a bruising defeat for Alvarez, after he twice won an at-large seat on the City Council. "I have more to lose now from running in one precinct," he said.

While Alvarez's campaign, after getting off to a slow start, has steadily gained traction and financial muscle, Gómez, long a loyal Democrat and supporter of progressive causes, still maintains support among high-profile Dem players. *Chronicle* columnist and former Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower, activist Bettie Naylor, and former Travis County Attorney Ken Oden are among the prominent names that appear on her supporters list. Alvarez, on the other hand, has attracted a number of boots-on-the-ground activists such as Susana Almanza of PODER and Tom "Smitty" Smith of Public Citizen.

To her detriment or credit, Gómez has never been one to make dramatic rhetorical waves. She plays it safe on issues, enumerat-

CONTINUED ON P.30

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ing her successes in phrases like “I voted for” rather than “I took the lead on” particular issues. For example, a recent campaign mailer boasts that she “voted to increase funding for SafePlace” (a facility for spousal abuse victims), and she “voted” to fund Meals for Kids, a poverty-fighting program. And, the mailer continues, she “voted” for a bond measure calling for the preservation of open space and the addition of parkland. “I am not a person who will grandstand, who takes the mic,” she says. “But I am very much aware of the issues. My style is to listen very carefully to understand all sides. The better part of communication is listening.”

Yet Gómez is more often criticized for not communicating enough. Her last four years in office have been particularly rough, due in considerable part to her tenure on the Capital Metro board, where she served for 11 years – her final year as chair – until stepping down at the end of her term late last year. She drew criticism for sitting on her hands on labor issues, preferring instead to point to the board’s legally bound “third-party” status as a reason for not wading into personnel matters. (She can cite specific laws by chapter and code number to explain why she – whether as a commissioner or a Cap Metro board member – cannot take a public stand on any given number of thorny issues.) On the Commissioners Court, Gómez most recently voted with the majority in clearing the way for the expansion of a controversial gravel mine in eastern Travis County. In 2007, she was the swing vote on the county’s decision to abandon its fight against a BFI landfill in the northeastern sector of the county (both facilities are located in Commissioner Ron Davis’ Precinct 1). Her express rationale at the time was that if the landfill weren’t allowed to grow at its present site, it would result in more landfills in her precinct. While she defended her action as a win for Precinct 4, activists countywide, including some in her own precinct, were (as one put it) “embarrassed” by Gómez’s explanation, saying, “You don’t dump on somebody [else] to avoid getting dumped on yourself.”

Even with Gómez’s faults, some of Alvarez’s supporters privately wonder if he would be able to assert himself effectively on key issues that come before the court. Like Gómez, Alvarez was regarded in some circles as someone who did not play a visibly active role in setting City Council policy. Yet Alvarez can indeed point to a record of leadership roles on a number of fronts, most prominently for a measure that led to the expedited closure of the Holly Street Power Station in East Austin and on establishing an economic development district for the central Eastside. On the whole, Alvarez remained true to his base when voting on issues pertaining to the environment and affordable housing. “When it comes to neighborhoods and the environment,” he says, “I can put my record up against anyone.” Even, he says, if he comes up on the losing end of a vote.

– Amy Smith



Rebecca Bell-Metereau



Robert Bohmfalk



Daniel Boone



Josiah James Ingalls

Reclaiming Education: Hoping for Sanity at the SBOE

As the years of the Bush administration showed, it takes quite a lot of right-wing extremism to embarrass Republicans. However difficult that task, in the last few years the State Board of Education has apparently managed to accomplish it.

The seven-member bloc of religious and political fundamentalists on the board of 15 has been held only partially in check by an uneasy coalition of three moderate Republicans and five Democrats. The past few years have seen pitched battles over curriculum standards, including bitter fights over English language and literature, evolution vs. creationism, and in recent months, social studies – struggles that have once again made Texas a nationwide educational laughingstock. In this campaign, which directly includes Travis County in SBOE Districts 5 and 10 (see map, p.31), the battle lines seem to be forming not only along Democratic vs. Republican lines, but also what might be described as “Crazy vs. Not Crazy” – as what’s left of the state GOP’s moderate wing tries to reassert itself in these races.

District 5: A Touch of GOP Sanity and a Brace of Dems

South of the river, Travis County is among 12 counties in District 5, currently represented by staunch creationist and former state legislator Ken Mercer of San Antonio, running under the slogan, “family, faith, freedom.” He faces a primary challenge from attorney Tim Tuggey, formerly chair of the board of San Antonio’s VIA mass transit system and now an Austinite and managing partner of his law firm. Tuggey says he’s “adamantly committed to public schooling,” and his wife is an Austin Independent School District teacher. The major issue for him is the management of the Permanent School Fund, which at the end of fiscal year 2009 was worth \$22.6 billion and that year provided \$716.5 million to public education. “It alarmed me when in late July ... Mr. Mercer and just eight of 15 members of the board voted to fire the incumbent managers [and] hire a lower-rated firm ... that was apparently the preference of [Democratic Board Member] Rick Agosto. Now, on the campaign trail, Mr. Mercer’s out there praising the performance of the fund last year, something to the effect of, ‘We’re among the best in the state and got a 31 percent return.’ Okay, you just fired the manager that yielded that return. Why is that?”

Mercer did not return a call requesting an interview, but his campaign website dis-

misses Tuggey as not a real conservative and even a contributor to “liberal” Democratic candidates. Tuggey insists that he is a “true conservative” and shares many of Mercer’s views, but “in a biology class, you teach evolution.” Mercer never specifically called for evolution’s ouster, but he published an op-ed arguing against the theory using long-discredited arguments attacking the “weaknesses” of evolutionary theory – the latest gambit of the advocates for creationism.

Four Democrats want Mercer’s job: Texas State English professor Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Seguin mental health case manager Robert Bohmfalk, Canyon Lake psychologist and former Lege candidate Daniel Boone, and machine operator Josiah James Ingalls, known to Austinites from his failed mayoral bid last year. In the crowded Democratic field, Boone says that “some on the board would like to prepare our children for the 19th century, not the 21st. ... The GOP has some good people, but they don’t have the right message and they don’t have a credible candidate.” Boone says as a clinical psychologist he “worked with youths facing the problems of the educational system.”

Bohmfolk says Mercer and his allies “put their own political agenda in front of kids.” The former Methodist minister says, “I

believe in separation of church and state.” He says the SBOE’s support of abstinence-only sex education has been a failure and that reducing teen pregnancy and the dropout rate would be his top priorities.

Ingalls says he has personal experience with the failings of the educational system, having been placed into programs for students with special needs when he was in school. He complains that children with physical needs are lumped together with those who have mental disabilities, posing problems for both groups. During his campaign for mayor, he criticized his own home-schooling for providing him an inadequate education he had to overcome on his own.

Of the four Democratic candidates, the only one with both education credentials and a broad-based campaign is Bell-Metereau. The former Fulbright scholar has been an educator for 28 years in the Peace Corps and at Texas State, where she is a professor in the English department. “The incumbent doesn’t know academics,” Bell-Metereau complains. “He has opinions, but he doesn’t know education.” In setting curriculum guidelines, “we need a reasonable process that looks at data and best practices and takes the advice of scholars, not people who are his friends or who agree with what he believes.” (The SBOE conservatives have been criticized for hiring self-proclaimed “experts” for curriculum review, rather than relying on trained academic professionals.)

The large SBOE districts – more than twice the size of state Senate districts – require substantial amounts of cash and campaign expertise for any shot at victory in November. The other three Democratic challengers are running DIY campaigns; Bell-Metereau’s is being run by veteran Austin campaign consultant Alfred Stanley, and she has been steadily raising money – both of which should give her an advantage in the general election.



SBOE Districts 5 and 10 cover a wide swath, cutting a jagged line through Travis County.



District 10: GOP Contest and Dem Designate-in-Waiting

North of the Colorado River, Travis County falls among the 16 counties in District 10, represented the past four years by Richmond's Cynthia Dunbar, who home-schools her own children and wrote a book labeling public education "a subtly deceptive tool of perversion." She also described newly elected Barack Obama as a terrorist sympathizer plotting to declare martial law. She's stepping down after a single term and has endorsed as her successor intellectual property attorney Brian Russell, a member of the state GOP executive committee. Russell (whose children are also home-schooled) must defeat one current and one former education professional in the GOP primary, both of whom hold doctoral degrees in education: McNeil High teacher Rebecca Osborne and Georgetown's Marsha Farney.

"When I realized the SBOE's influence, I wanted someone on the board with education experience," said Farney. She said she doesn't question Dunbar's right to home-school her children but notes her own years as an elementary teacher and counselor and her doctorate in curriculum: "I think your perspective is enhanced if you've had that experience." As for the culture wars, Farney says: "My faith is not shaken by evolution. ... It should be taught as a theory."

"I'm running because I believe there's a disconnect between the Board of Education and the classroom," says Osborne. "I'm running to bring the voice of an educator to the board." Osborne began her campaign in 2008, before Dunbar's decision to not seek re-election. But she carefully avoids characterizing what would have been a challenge to the incumbent as a criticism of Dunbar's record. "My voice is a different voice than hers," she says. "My voice is the voice of an educator." Asked if she was the moderate alternative to the fundamentalist bloc, she said, "I'm not going to get into labels." On her website, she states that,

"Board appointed content experts should have backgrounds in the field of study for which they are appointed. I will recognize and respect their expertise." But asked if that was a criticism of board-appointed "experts" with dubious academic credentials, she would only say that appointing true experts "is what I plan to do. I have made a real point since I began this race to talk about what I have to offer, not to talk about current board members."

Russell did not return a phone call, but his site quickly establishes where he's coming from in the first sentence: "I am a pro-life, pro-family conservative." He spends the bulk of his front page promoting his track record as a state Republican Party activist and uses the word "conservative" no less than eight times. On science issues, he boasts proudly that he wants students "to think for themselves and ask questions about scientific theories like evolution and man-made global warming."

In the Democratic primary, former Texas Education Agency employee Judy Jennings of Austin, who works as an educational consultant and has a doctorate of her own, is unopposed and is already looking forward to November. In her work with the Texas Education Agency she was a curriculum specialist, and during that tenure earned a doctorate in education. "About a year ago I started reading about Dunbar and said, 'This can't be,'" Jennings says. Of her potential opponents, Jennings singles out Russell as her chief concern because his views are similar to Dunbar's.

Which of the three Republicans will face Jennings in November is a tough call. Does the religious right still control the Republican primary, or are moderates ready to take back their party? Russell would appear to have a lock on the former, but Osborne boasts an impressive list of endorsers that would seem to establish her with the latter, including current SBOE Republican Pat Hardy and former District 5 member Dan Montgomery — who was purged from the board by Mercer.

— Lee Nichols

VALENTINE'S DAY WEEKEND



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Open Letter to Sharon Doubiago

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

Dear Sharon,

Since receiving your book, weeks ago, I've owed you a letter and an explanation. My *Father's Love: Portrait of the Poet as a Young Girl: A Memoir, Volume I* – how to tell you I can't read this book of yours? You spent 10 years writing it, and I can't hardly open it, so, my friend, my *compañera* in the arts, you deserve to know why.

That piece I wrote about you in '93, the piece that began our friendship ("Physical Acts: Writing Poetry Sharon Doubiago's Way," available for no fee at www.michaelventura.org; go to "Search Ventura's Work by Topic" and scroll to Sharon Doubiago) quotes from your 1988 *The Book of Seeing With One's Own Eyes*: "The only art I'm interested in is of the intimate and personal facts of our existences. Most stories haven't been told yet. Sometimes I think the telling of these stories is the only thing that can save us."

In those terms, then:

I was shaped, like you, by incest and rape. Witness to madness (not once but continually, from age 6). Wracked by abandonment, homelessness, "food insecurity" (as they call it now), and the violence of the poor who have no one to turn their rage upon but one another – all by age 14. You know this about me. As with you, the parents who hurt me also deeply loved me. Our childhoods, though very different, are more alike than not. And we know ours are not special stories.

Ours are the stories of millions, which is why self-pity is forbidden in contemplating the kinds of pasts we share. I reject it as absolutely as do you. I'm writing to say you kept intact something that I lost by 14 – something that was burned out of me, something I never journeyed back to find. My dirty little secret is: I'm glad it was burned out of me. Even if it was a piece of my soul, I was glad to lose it. Which means, as you must know, that I was a co-conspirator in the loss.

It's a "something" hard to name. Let's get at it this way:

I write because that is what has been given me to do. So I felt by age 13; so I feel still. For me, it's a job, all of it – the column, my poetry, my novels – a working stiff's job. That's not meant to disparage. The world runs or totters as people do or fail to do their jobs. I feel what I do is no different, at its core, from what anybody else does to keep this crazy world going its crazy way. Cooks, mechanics, cab drivers (like my father), janitors, fruit pickers, clerks, ranchers, teachers, nurses, construction workers, soldiers,

Joes and Jans on assembly lines and in sweatshops – and models, lawyers, scientists, hookers, and the deformed guy in the motorized chair whose head bobs and whose arms don't work well when he rings the Salvation Army bell in front of my market in December and says "God bless you" in his spittle-splattered voice when I donate a dollar as I'm thinking, "It takes more courage to be you for a day than it takes to be me for a year." That's also what I think when I see a mother shop with kids in tow. All of us, doing our jobs, and I'm just one of the gang, one of the work force. I can't feel that what I do matters any more, or any less, than anyone's job. I'm an itinerant worker, the 13-year-old homeless street kid, rescued by the kindness of strangers, who finally found his job to do and, with it, a way to be in the world. I write as well and true

as I'm able, but I never had a sense of mission. I like to think my writing is useful to some, and I write this column because I love the work of it, but that hardly makes for a sense of mission.

Wrote the novel of my childhood and placed it tenderly in a drawer. Haven't lifted a finger to get it published. Spent 40 years, on and off, writing a long poem that tells it all, tells everything; sent it to a few friends and let it, too, sleep in a drawer. I wrote those books to write them. That's all. I've worked hard on a novel these last two years, and it's at least a year from completion, when it, too, will join the others in the drawer. At this point in my life, the work, in itself, is enough.

But you, Sharon, you have the courage of a sense of mission. Every line, every paragraph, even every photograph of you, shimmers with that mission. "Sometimes I think the telling of these stories is the only thing that can save us." So you give 10 years of your life to tell the story of your incest, rape, transcendence, dance, grit – passionate to save us. Your constant work, faith, and hope are a living prayer.

Don't get me wrong, I don't despair. My beliefs meld into one: At every moment there is every possibility. It's a quantum life.

But getting back to why I can't read your book:

In the Brooklyn I knew more than half a century ago, age 9 or 10, there was a park.



JASON STOUT

In that park was a public bathroom. When I think of it, I see only a kind of white haze, permeable but impenetrable. On the other side of that haze the "big kids" are at it again with me. All of it, from those years – the incest, madness, rape – I've written about them and written around them and learned to live with it, all of it, and I'm not even angry anymore. I've learned to respect everything that made me what I am. But I don't want to go back there.

I look at your book and know your story will evoke mine and, well – honestly, I can't say whether it's cowardice, maturity, battle fatigue, or just that I don't want to go back there. But when one of the few truly important writers in this country – you, Sharon Doubiago – spends 10 years on a book, I can't let that go by, even if I don't want to go where the book goes. Hence this public letter.

When my brother Aldo died in 2004, age 54 ... well, it stripped me down, stripped me all the way. That next year and a half I wrote what I called my "oh shit" books.

In doing my job – being a writer – what I feared most was writing the "oh shit" books, defined as: A truck jumps a stop sign, and my last thought as it smashes into me is: "Oh, shit! I never finished the long poem that tells all I know! Oh, shit, I never wrote the novel of my childhood! Oh, shit, I never did the memoir about John Cassavetes!" So Al's death

goaded me on. In my grief I completed the long poem, the memoir, and wrote the novel. (The memoir was published. Not by my effort. By a flip of fate.)

But Sharon – beautiful, brave Sharon – I can't open your book because I do not want to go back there. Went back as far as I could in the poem and the novel. I don't give a damn if anyone reads them. I wrote them to keep a pact with myself. Your pact, holier by far than mine, is with the world.

What I wrote of you in '93 stands: "As a man, it has been invaluable to me to be exposed to the storms of Sharon Doubiago's sensibility. ... It is reading that enters my experience and *becomes* my experience, and feeds both the masculine and feminine within me as experience."

That's exactly why *My Father's Love* is beyond me now. Maybe someday I'll need to go back again to my early years, and your book will be the portal. My favorite line of yours, from *Hard Country*: "Writing is a physical act, erotic and dangerous." So is reading, when the writer is good enough. I still live dangerously, but I've learned to choose with care which dangers I engage. For me, it's not time for the danger your book braves and invites.

With love, and beseeching your understanding,

Michael



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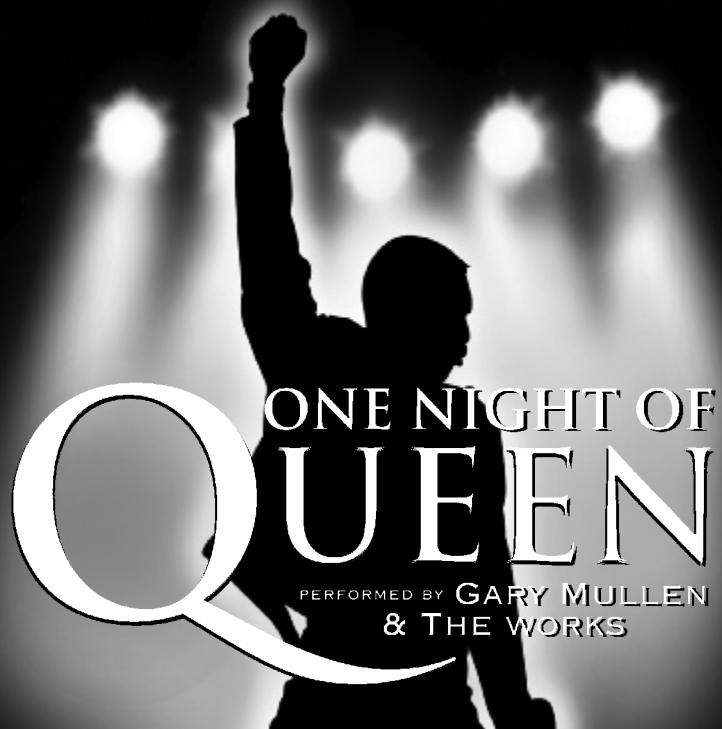
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FORKLIFT DANCEWORKS

You'll know it when you see it

Have you ever discovered rhythm or pattern during a mundane task and had the fleeting feeling that you were dancing? For Forklift Danceworks' next project, Artistic Director Allison Orr invited five choreographers to join her in molding everyday movement into dance – in exploring dance by way of nondance.

Choreographer Zenobia Taylor recruited waitstaff and cooks for her piece, an exploration of the movements characteristic of restaurant workers. (And yes, there are knives involved.) Caroline Sutton Clark drew from her experience receiving a blissful four-hands massage to create a work for 11 massage therapists. (One studio exercise: "Imagine the room is a giant leg, and you all have to work on it.") Orr choreographed a solo for Austin Police Officer Melissa McGrath, who directs traffic near the Four Seasons, and Sharon Marroquín is working for the second time with Frank Yezer, a septuagenarian and former ballet dancer. Ann Berman's work uses dancers, but also remote-control bunnies, and is inspired by the most ungraceful of historical figures: Mary Toft, the 18th-century woman who convinced doctors she gave birth to rabbits (also, in a wild coincidence, the subject of C. Denby Swanson's *A Brief Narrative of an Extraordinary Birth of Rabbits*, opening this same weekend). Mari Akita created a solo for a single dancer using pedestrian movement. "I have to tell my dancer not to dance," she says.

For Orr, whose last Forklift endeavor was the wildly successful *The Trash Project*, *Project Forklift!* is a way of continuing to confront common perceptions of contemporary dance. "What interests me is making dances that, and this might sound kind of hokey, but I think connect to our humanness, that aren't just about movement exclusively."

But, I asked the group, how does that humanness become something we call contemporary dance? When does everyday movement become dance?

– Jonelle Seitz



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Mari Akita: Maybe context and designing it, I guess? Putting it all together.

Sharon Marroquín: And it's what you were saying earlier: telling them to do this now and hat then.

Akita: Yeah. Like when you see a flock of birds, there's always a pattern. It's not a dance performance, but you know, you kind of find it. Like, OK, cool, cool, cool. So you find something, that kind of pattern, but change the timing and arrange it.

Ann Berman: It's the artistic intent that makes it art. I feel like it's like a sculptor who uses found objects.

Marroquín: And it's not put together any which way, even though it's any kind of thing. It's

put together in a very purposeful way, to shine light on some thing or other.

Zenobia Taylor: Unless the pur-

posefulness of it is to make it random.

Marroquín: That's a purpose.

Taylor: Yeah, it's the intent behind it, to express something, or to express the fact that you're not trying to express something concrete.

Caroline Sutton Clark: I would love to share with you something. I took a grad seminar, and we talked about the definition of dance for months. We had to do like a final summation paper, and I kind of had had it with the whole thing by then. And so this was my final summation, to paraphrase a famous judge: "Dance is like pornography. I can't define it, but I know it when I see it."

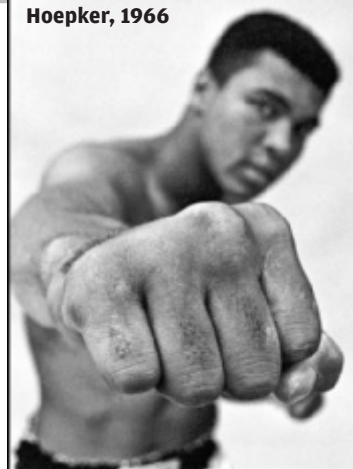
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Since its founding in 1947 by Robert Capa, David "Chim" Seymour, Henri Cartier-Bresson, George Rodger, and William Vandivert, Magnum Photos has been the gold standard for photographic agencies, and now the University of Texas' Ransom Center will be home to more than 60 years' worth of original prints – almost 200,000 images! – from the cooperative's 90-plus member photographers. The Magnum Archive Collection was purchased last year by MSD Capital, the firm that manages the investments for Michael Dell and family, which agreed to an initial five-year arrangement with the Ransom Center to catalog and preserve the photographs. As part of the deal, the HRC will also show works from the collection in exhibitions and host visits by Magnum photographers. For more information, visit www.hrc.utexas.edu.

– Robert Faires

Muhammed
Ali, by Thomas
Hoepker, 1966



'A BRIEF NARRATIVE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY BIRTH OF RABBITS'

Coming to term(s) with the impossible

The gestation period for a rabbit is about four weeks. The gestation period for a play about a woman who gives birth to rabbits is about nine years – at least in the case of C. Denby Swanson. It was in 2001 that the author of *The Death of a Cat* first learned of Mary Toft, an Englishwoman who, in 1726, claimed to have given birth to bunnies and then persuaded several prominent physicians that she'd done it. Now, in 2010, Swanson's dramatic riff on that historical event, *A Brief Narrative of an Extraordinary Birth of Rabbits*, is receiving its world premiere, with Salvage Vanguard Theater serving as midwife. Here's the playwright describing how her work changed during that exceptional "pregnancy." – R.F.



A Brief Narrative of an Extraordinary Birth of Rabbits runs Feb. 12-March 6, Thursday-Saturday, 8pm, at Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd. For more information, visit www.salvagevanguard.org.

C. Denby Swanson: I was trying to apply for a Sloan grant, which supports new plays about science or technology, and I found a book called *The Girl Who Gave Birth to Rabbits*. It's a terrible, terrible book, but looking at the title, I thought: "That's my idea right there. I don't know what my play is, but that's my subject." I was into reproductive technology and what we're able to do with our bodies. We're making body parts out of animal parts. We're creating clones out of animal cells that are implanted into humans. That was where it started.

You know, the thing about science plays is that they become about men. They become about male scientists. A lot of them are biography plays or "here's what this guy discovered." I was really interested in troubling the waters in what science plays feel like, so it felt natural to write one about a woman who wasn't a scientist and find some nugget of a play about that event and rethink what we know about science. Because people at

that time believed you could have rabbit babies. There were all kinds of beliefs about reproduction and this odd perspective on women's bodies. People used to think that whatever a woman imagined, she made, like that was how conception and gestation happened: A woman just imagined it, and somehow her body would make a baby. And in the form of whatever she imagined.

[Then] it became a play about infertility in a huge way, following the story of Kitty, the infertile sister [of Mare, who gives birth to rabbits]. She powerfully wants a child, and she's been unable to make one for herself in her own body, so that's where that part of the story landed: the incapability of this one woman to be part of the magic that is the creation of a child. Enlisting her sister, who is so magical that she creates things that have nothing to do with babies at all.

Austin Chronicle: So your Mary Toft is not perpetuating a hoax?

CDS: Mare in this play is not perpetuating a hoax. Mary Toft in the 1700s was, but Mare in this play is not. [Giving birth to rabbits] is actually something she can do.

AC: How did you imagine the rabbits being represented?

CDS: I think they were always puppets. I felt like we had to see them. She has rabbits. We have to see the rabbits! At the first reading at the Playwrights' Center in 2006, my director at the time, Bonnie Schock, came up with the idea that this vaginal puppet theatre would appear, and things would pop out of it. It was a fantastic, impossible image. I thought: "No one will ever do this play if there is a vaginal puppet theatre. That will be a deal breaker for every single production of this play." And, of course, I'm a Swanson, so I think: "No one will do it. That's what I'm gonna do."

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THE ARTS BOOKS

The 18th Annual Short Story Contest

BY KIMBERLEY JONES



From a record-smashing 620 entries, nine finalists emerged – and with them, some common themes. At the judges' dinner last week, Jim Lewis noted the prevalence of cars and dead or dying animals. Clay Smith mentioned the class issues. And Erin Pringle pointed out another commonality.

"There are a lot of jerks," she said.

"Good people don't make good fiction," Mary Helen Specht offered by way of explanation.

"And this guy's the leader of the pack," said Smith of the protagonist of John Roberts' "Deliver Me," which would eventually take first place. It's a seriocomic piece about a man named Jim who is on his way back to the town and the woman he abruptly left 10 years prior. Jim's a jerk, without a doubt, but the judges had trouble agreeing on just how much of a jerk he was – and on how much of one the author had intended him to be.

In fact, there was much lively debate at the judges' dinner and very little agreement. It took our four judges nearly three hours to come to some consensus. Every one of the nine finalists was championed by a judge (a 10th finalist was pulled from the competition by its author just prior to the dinner), but not one finalist was championed by every judge. To add further turmoil, another story – a favorite of more than one judge – had to be pulled from competition late in the game when it was discovered it exceeded the contest's allowed word count.

In the end, Roberts' "Deliver Me" took the day; it was commonly considered the most professionally executed story of the lot – though Specht called it "the safe, electable candidate" – and the judges admired both its imagery and its finely drawn characterizations.

Lewis was the most enthusiastic champion of second-place winner "Cribdeath: Bellocq's Girl," which had the other judges' respect but not full-throated endorsement. (All agreed that its final sentence was a misstep.) F.J. Schaack's story, a monologue set in a

Storyville brothel, distinguished itself by being the only historical story in the batch, as well as one of the more inventive ones.

Kerri Mullen's "Rendezvous," about a fraught birthday dinner in honor of a dearly departed father, took third place. Specht in particular praised the story for being "very sophisticated and very controlled."

Ben Roberts' "Mother" made several judges' short lists of favorites, but Smith railed against the "faux-biblical language" – the very same quality that Lewis liked most in the story – while the judges returned repeatedly to Jason Lee's "A Time and Times," a slim three-pager with a knockout first two paragraphs that Pringle called "hard to shake." Both stories netted honorable mentions.

Big thanks to the judges, who freely gave their time, careful consideration, and dinner companionship. Thanks also go to marketing wiz Erin Collier and her first lieutenant, Logan Youree, and to an army of first-readers, who with minimal complaint accepted what felt sometimes like a Sisyphean task of tackling submissions: Nora Ankrum, Nick Barbaro, Sarah Jean Billeiter, Wayne Alan Brenner, Jessi Cape, Lei-Leen Choo, Wells Dunbar, Mark Fagan, Liz Franklin, Cassidy Frazier, Anne Harris, Michael King, Matthew Patin, James Renovitch, Monica Riese, Pamela Ross, Audra Schroeder, Amy Smith, Darcie Stevens, Jason Stout, Kristine Tofte, Tim Warden, and Richard Whittaker. And thanks to the 620 brave souls who submitted. I am impressed by your creativity and inspired by your pluck. See you next year. ■

CONTINUED ON P.38

THE WINNERS

First Place: "Deliver Me"

John Roberts is a graduate of the University of Texas who lives in Virginia. He was a finalist in the 2006 *Austin Chronicle* Short Story Contest. His fiction has appeared in *Word Riot*, *Monkeybicycle*, and in the short story anthology *See You Next Tuesday*. He lives on a small farm where he distributes hay to geriatric horses while nursing truly hideous sinus allergies. Because his wife is stunning.

Second Place: "Cribdeath: Bellocq's Girl"

For more than 25 years, F.J. Schaack has taught creative writing, including at St. Edward's and Westwood High School. His efforts have previously been published in *Blue Mesa Review*, *The Seattle Review*, *The Black Scholar*, *The Texas Observer*, *Santa Barbara Review*, *Utter*, and other mags and anthologies. His doctorate in humanities was recognized from UT-Arlington. And he's a little crazy about his wife, Phyllis.

Third Place: "Rendezvous"

Before moving to Berlin in 2007, Kerri Mullen lived in Chicago, central Illinois, New Zealand, and France. Her work has most recently been published by *the extra room*, *Bordercrossing Berlin*, *Featherproof Books*, and *Turbine*, the literary journal of Victoria University in New Zealand. She is seeking representation for her novel, *Big Mess*.

Honorable Mention: "Mother"

Ben Roberts is a James A. Michener fellow in fiction at the University of Texas. His writing has appeared in *Quarterly West* and *Coe Review*. He lives in Austin with his wife, Jessica, and son, Solomon.

Honorable Mention: "A Time and Times"

Jason Lee went to film school at New York University ('09) but has very little interest in making movies. He began writing fiction a little over a year ago, a couple of months after he came of legal drinking age. He harbors some doubts as to the coincidence in this and is currently hard at work on a book of personal poems in the guise of a chapter-by-chapter reworking of the Bible.

THE JUDGES

Jim Lewis is the author of three novels, most recently *The King Is Dead* (Knopf). He has written short fiction, essays, and journalism for numerous journals and magazines, among them *The New York Times Magazine* and *Sunday Book Review*, *Granta*, *Tin House*, *Wired*, *GQ*, *Vanity Fair*, and *Slate*.

Erin Pringle lives in San Marcos. Her short story collection, *The Floating Order*, is published by Two Ravens Press.

Born and bred in Abilene, Mary Helen Specht is a former Fulbright scholar and Dobie Paisano fellow. Her work has been published in numerous journals and literary magazines, including an upcoming essay in *The New York Times*, and she is currently working on a novel as well as a nonfiction book about Nigeria. She teaches writing at Austin Community College. She likes to eat pie.

Clay Smith is the literary director of the Texas Book Festival and a former Books editor at *The Austin Chronicle*.

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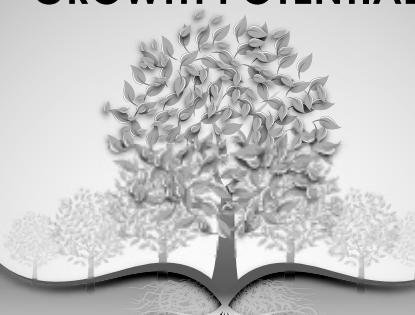
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‘Deliver Me’ by John Roberts

Yellow leaves spun down and ticked softly on the porch. They covered plastic chairs and a dirty glass table, suggesting artful neglect. A broom with a splintered handle leaned against the railing, next to pieces of a red bird house that had fallen from the old oak. Light from the setting sun brushed the tips of the highest trees. The air, cold and still, drew the heat from Jim’s bones. He tightened the string on his pullover, wiped his nose on his sleeve, wiped his sleeve on the back of his pants.

He heard gravel popping under tires, checked the door one last time – locked – and stepped down onto the driveway. Her car, somebody else driving. He dropped his gym bag and waited. The car backed into the turn-around and the driver cut the engine. A big guy got out. He was unshaven, wearing crusty jeans, an unbuttoned green flannel shirt over a hooded sweatshirt and grubby pumpkin colored work boots with the laces untied. The sweatshirt said “Harvard.” Nobel Prize winner dressing down.

“Hey, Jim. Ed. Allie’s brother. Remember me?”

“No.”

“Yeah, well, she had to work, last minute. I said I would pick you up. You weren’t answering your phone.”

“Don’t have a phone.”

“There you go. I’ll pop the trunk.”

Jim stowed his bag, swept crumbs and dirt off the passenger seat with an equipment catalog, and rolled down the window to cut the booze sweat. Ice cubes with hollow centers

bobbed around two beer cans in a cooler wedged between the seats.

“Help yourself. Happy Hour.” Ed tapped the clock on the dash and turned toward him. Jim felt closed in, like a talking flannel air bag had just inflated next to him. “You really don’t remember me?”

Jim closed his eyes, tried to reconcile the guy next to him with his memories. Chubby little kid, reindeer pajamas, one hand on his pecker, wouldn’t piss and brush his teeth. He’d wanted to play with his train set all night while Jim was trying to get down with Allie under the Christmas tree. Allie’s parents out all night, not with each other. Jim remembered crushing up sleeping pills in the kid’s egg nog, enough to drop an uncooperative zoo animal. Remembered carrying him to his room and checking his breathing over and over. Both of them just boys, really. Allie already starting to show signs, getting anxious and paranoid whenever she was high. Later, Allie riding him as he tried to grab her swinging necklace, her Christmas present, his whole paycheck, between his teeth. Jesus, carrying that kid, his arms soft around Jim’s neck, slipping his feet under the bedcovers, and then coming back down the hall to Allie’s open robe – the perverse domesticity of the scene struck him now.

“Allie had to work?”

“Waiting tables. High dollar steakhouse, good tips. Asked me to pick you up. I moved some things around to get it done.” Ed had his hand on the keys but didn’t crank it, still looking at Jim.

Jim nodded, let a breath out. “I appreciate it.”

Ed slapped him hard on the shoulder. “Glad to do it.”

As they crunched down the driveway Jim slid lower in the seat and watched the house recede in the side mirror. Not his house anymore. He had left the keys on the kitchen table, on top of Carol’s note that said “Leave keys.” “Keys left,” he had added, getting the last word for once. Ed was talking ...

“... Went through a split myself last year. Got weird at the end, we’re sitting on the couch doing business, you know, contact numbers, PO boxes, bills. We start laughing. She puts her feet in my lap. Because we’re the only two people who understand. Nobody else is inside it. You know what it’s like?” He waited until Jim said what. “One of those old Samurai movies where the guys are slicing and dicing each other and they get tangled up face to face for a second and it’s like, ‘can you believe we’re killing each other?’ The last thing they have in common, right? I mean chopping somebody’s head off, that’s at least as personal as sex. Right?”

Mother of God, a long drive at rush hour with Mr. Miyagi. Jim rubbed his face.

“Ed, let’s refill this cooler.”

“Could use some gas, too.”

Jim dug for his wallet.

Ed pulled into a gas station. The sky was dark now, but the parking lot was lit up so strong you thought you were being abducted by aliens. Jim went around back to the can. Two Harry Homeowner types were already waiting. He stepped out of the light to piss and almost rolled down a steep hill. “Son of a ...” He rocked on his heels, found his balance and waited for his eyes to adjust. Down below, fragmented by tree branches, square windows floated in space, some yellow, most blue and flickering. Car lights in parallel lines crossed at an intersection. One car turned into a cul-de-sac and then into a driveway, illuminating two fallen bicycles in the yard. He heard the thump of a car door. Dad’s home, mom’s home, hide the bong, fix a drink, feed the dog, nuke a pizza, sniff a shirt for tomorrow, and let the current drag you down the river. Jim aimed his stream down the hill, zipped up carefully when he was done, hunched over in the universal protective gesture. The two Harrys were glaring at him but he knew they would do the same thing when he was gone.

They drove west. Traffic thinned; abandoned wooden houses, country stores, and horse and cattle farms replaced the suburban fungus. The left headlight was out and the right one flickered every time they hit a bump. Jim drank between potholes. He squinted each time they passed a streetlamp, watching a single gold strand of light touch the hood and guide the car into the next dark patch, like Tarzan riding vines.

“So catch me up,” said Ed.

“Ten years, one lesson, Ed. Every relationship is the goddamned Middle East.”

“Lemme drink about that for a minute.”

They laughed. Ed slapped one hand on the dash and turned a beer over into his mouth with the other. Jim thought about Carol’s

sleek friends, all the times he had drawn laughs sitting around the McMansion talking about his country roots, describing his home town as a fetal alcohol colony filled with hatchet-faced gun toting half wits. Lifestyles of the high caliber and low IQ. Now he was rolling back, drunk, broke, dismissed. Showing off the genuine mountain man got boring for Carol, and all of the others, right quick. He opened another beer. The shock of seeing Ed, now a behemoth, set him wondering about Allie. They had been sharing quite a few racy phone calls lately but he hadn’t seen her in years. My God, what a luxurious, irresistible delusion, that the place you left is a closed book, all characters ageless, poised in mid stride, waiting patiently for your eyes and breath to move them again. All is forgiven as your high school sweetheart opens the door with a smile ...

Ed turned up the heat. Stale air blew in Jim’s face. The windshield was fogged; Jim grabbed his sleeve with his fingers and pressed his forearm on the glass, rubbing it clear. Might as well be driving with your eyes closed. They cruised past the town limit sign.

“Temp’s really dropping,” Ed said.

“It’s country dark, too.”

“Oh, yeah.”

“You doing all right, I can take the wheel if you ...”

Ed waved his hand. Jim moved around, trying to get some circulation back in his ass cheeks. He reached to unbuckle his seat belt. Ed looked at him.

“You need to stop, Jim?”

“Stop.”

“What I’m asking ...”

“No, I mean stop the car.”

“Wha ...”

□

“Are we dead?” Ed asked.

“You smell dead.”

Jim looked out his side, where the window used to be. Most of it was in his lap, in tiny pieces, shining like dangerous candy. His ears were ringing and his neck hurt. Ed’s voice sounded far away, something about his leg feels broken and it’s getting ready to hurt real bad. Jim opened the door, shook glass out of his lap, and stepped into a ditch. His vision tunneled and his head sank, like somebody had turned the gravity dial up a few notches. He leaned against the car and worked his way around to Ed, who had pushed himself out the driver’s side door and was sitting with his back against the door. Ed lit a fat blunt and passed it.

“Pain management.”

“What was that, a deer?” Jim asked.

“Looked like a bear.”

“No way. You see it anywhere?”

“No.”

“You’re not supposed to swerve, just hit them straight on. Beats bouncing off trees like we did.”

“Tad late with the driver’s ed tip there, Jimbo.”

“Yeah, well, give me your phone, I’ll call 911.”

Ed tapped his pockets, found the phone.

CONTINUED ON P.40

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"We're not hurt bad enough, and my next DWI is a felony. I'm calling Barry. He drives a wrecker."

Jim decided not to argue. It was cold and the weed was kicking in. Ed was mumbling into the phone. Jim lay down on the ground, reminded himself that he would need his bag out of the trunk. More stars than sky out here, layer on layer. Deep in that infinite overlay of parallel universes, a smarter Jim had been spending a regretless chunk of the last ten years in a warm bed with Allie. Of course, in another minutely tilted universe the unluckiest of Jims had gotten his seat belt off and been launched through the windshield, courtesy of a parallel drunken Ed. Jim sat up.

He borrowed the keys and lifted his bag out of the trunk.

"How long is this guy gonna be?" asked Jim. Ed held up his hand.

"Alright, that's enough. Enough. Here's a question. You know what we used to call you?"

Jim didn't answer, hearing the change in Ed's tone.

"The man with the reverse Midas touch. Everything you touched turned to shit. Now not even one day passes and here we are, on the side of the road, and all you're worried about is your stuff and how long it's gonna be before you get back to screwing my sister's life up again. She's doing good by the way, much better without you. She's taking her up and down pills every day, working, and she's happy."

"How's this my fault? You wrecked Allie's car. How happy is she gonna be about that? And I didn't ask you to pick me up in the first place."

"I picked you up because my sister, who I care about, even though she has the piss poor sense to keep dealing with you, asked me to. That's what people do. Well, not people like you, but people like me. Because you needed my help. So answer me this, mister asshole, than thou, what are you doing out here next to me freezing your nuts off?"

"Oh, how long you been saving that one, Fat Albert Einstein?"

Ed staggered to his feet and glared, looking all weed paranoid.

"I was planning to stomp you tomorrow, but now's good."

Jim took a step back. Then they were lit up. They turned and shielded their eyes as a tow truck rumbled up. Behind it was a patrol car.

The town cop walked up first. Barry got out of the tow truck and came over. He nodded toward the cop. "He saw me going out on the call." Another door slammed. Jim watched Allie slide out of the tow truck. "And so did she. She was still at work," said Barry, shrugging.

"Small town," Ed said.

"Curious inhabitants," Jim said.

The cop ran a flashlight beam up and down Jim and Ed and then pointed it inside the car. Ed leaned over and looked, like he was curious too.

"Open containers, and you both reek. Who was operating this vehicle?"

"Operating this vehicle," Jim echoed. The cop looked about twelve.

Allie was hugging a big down jacket around herself. Her thin legs stuck out, panty hose sagging around her knees. She swayed from exhaustion, her eyes closed, her face Kabuki white in the high beams. A tired face, but even so. Jim started toward her but she put her hand up and pointed her index finger at his face, eyes still shut tight.

"I was driving," Ed said.

"Oh, no, Eddy," he heard her whisper. She

walked over to him and put her fist on his chest, punched him twice in slow

motion. "No, no, no." Ed cupped her fist in his hands. Jim watched the two of them, in the road, bathed in bright cold light. It felt timeless, as if the world had spun away and left this afterimage.

He remembered Ed's round face bulging through the screen door when he would take Allie out. He would stand there, inconsolable, until she returned. Then Allie getting sick, Jim bailing when the choices seemed to be Allie screaming, hot as blue flame, or Allie zonked on meds, and finally Allie, who didn't understand, saying she understood, pleading over and over, "I'm still me, Jim" as he shook his head and

drove off. Then the message from Ed, two weeks later: *She stood in the road for four hours. You are a breathtaking asshole. Stay gone.* All that had happened since he left now felt illusory; this was the story that would hound him until he finished it.

"Officer, don't listen to his drunk ass. I woke up driving and swerved off the road." Jim jangled the car keys. "Just glad nobody got hurt."

"You need to submit to a breath test and ..."

"No, none of that's gonna happen. We're all cold and tired, just put me in the back seat and let's go."

Allie pressed her face against the window, mouthed a thank you, blew out, and drew a heart where her breath left a mark. Ed stood back a few feet, smirked, and flipped him off. Jim leaned forward, felt the cuffs pull all the way up to his shoulders. He looked in the rear view mirror, made eye contact. "Hey, I think I know you. How about some heat back here, before I file a human rights complaint on your ass. Or even worse, I tell your mother." It would take a long time to make things right here, back home. Lying and smart mouthing a cop in the back of a patrol car, nursing a rapidly fading buzz, feeling the cuffs digging in; it seemed like an odd way to start on the righteous path. As they drove off he shifted his weight, turned toward the window and watched the dark scenery of town pass through her fading heart. ■



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**"...THE MOST POSITIVE, LIVING
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after a fashion

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

THERE WILL BE GOWNS What was **Rihanna** thinking? Her **Grammy** dress was too vile to think about. I understand the **fembot alien** look, but Rihanna's gown was a throwback to a time when drag queens created their own glamorous gowns out of sheets and anything else that was available. Well, at least the drag queens are pretty resourceful still, but on Rihanna, who must have had her choice of top designers, you could imagine it's the kind of dress that a pole dancer would select for her wedding.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB If you ever get an invitation to a dinner party at **Charlotte Herzele's** house, go. It is a treat not to be missed. I've been there three times now and am always enchanted by the **Dalís**, **Picassos**, **Mirós**, and **Warhols** hanging around the house like old friends. But Saturday night, the art took a backseat to the guests at Charlotte's **Around the World in 8 Platters** dinner party which she threw on behalf of **Project Transitions' Guess Who's Coming to Dinner** series of fundraisers. With delicacies from all parts of the world, the place mats were a map of the world, and we marked the map with the places we'd been gastronomically that evening. I didn't have my glasses on and couldn't tell **Morocco** from **Mexico** on the map, so I just happily marked here and there and *imagined* I was going to these glamorous far-off places.

es. Rep. Mark Strama and the gorgeous **Crystal Cotti** were there, charming and delightful as usual, as were **Anton Nel** and **Bill Jones**, among many friends and neighbors. At one point we went around the room and briefly introduced ourselves. It seemed that so many accomplished people were so very modest about what they did that I kept having to interject facts about them that I thought were most important. Finally, Monsieur Strama said, "Why don't we just let **Stephen Moser** introduce everyone?"

TALENT SCOUT Attending one of my sister's teen band showcases at the **Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum**, out of all the youthful talent onstage, I was riveted by a young woman named **Rachel Thompson** from the band **AfterMath**. Singing through her long, side-parted hair, she resembled a young **Janis Joplin**. With a powerful voice and stage presence, I think this girl ought to work on her Janis Joplin repertoire for the inevitable movie offer that will come in a few years when she stars as Janis Joplin in a film bio. No kidding.

NO, REALLY? My sister, Margaret, announced that **Peter Lewis** of the legendary band **Moby Grape** would be playing with the equally legendary **Explosives** at the **Austin Music Awards**. While that didn't exactly have me running for the phone, I *am* fascinated by the



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(L-r) Rep. Mark Strama; his wife, former Fox News anchor Crystal Cotti; world-class pianist Anton Nel; art collector/nutritionist Charlotte Herzele; and "Silver Elvis"

fact that Peter Lewis is the son of the notoriously sanctimonious movie star **Loretta Young**. Oh, how my sister and I swooned when Loretta would come twirling onto the set of her television show wearing sumptuous **New Look** cocktail dresses and ball gowns. Needless to say, when her daughter **Judy Lewis** wrote her tell-all book **Uncommon Knowledge** about Loretta, I read it several times immediately and was riveted by Judy's story and how her mother refused for decades to admit that Judy's father had been **Clark Gable**. Please. All you had to do was look at the picture of Judy on the cover of the book and you'd swear you were looking at Clark Gable wearing a blond corkscrew-curl wig.

WTF? I have now seen into the **Seventh Ring of Hell** by watching the despicable

Toddlers & Tiaras. This is a continuation of reality shows that cash in on the mentally ill (just look at the cast of **Jersey Shore**). In this case, the mentally ill are the mothers and grandmothers who dress up their 3- to 11-year-old daughters as little porn princesses. One mother was very concerned about sending her 7-year-old across the stage in a bikini (she thought it would attract creepy men, but duh, darling, that was already happening), but once she saw that *all* the other 7-year-olds had on bikinis, she relented.

WHO DAT? Well, I'm afraid it was me. Yes, something that has never before happened: me, screaming over a football game. I screeched with delight when I heard the score of the **Super Bowl**. Not that I care about football in the least, but as it was my native **New Orleans Saints**, I was delighted for their win. The city *will* return.

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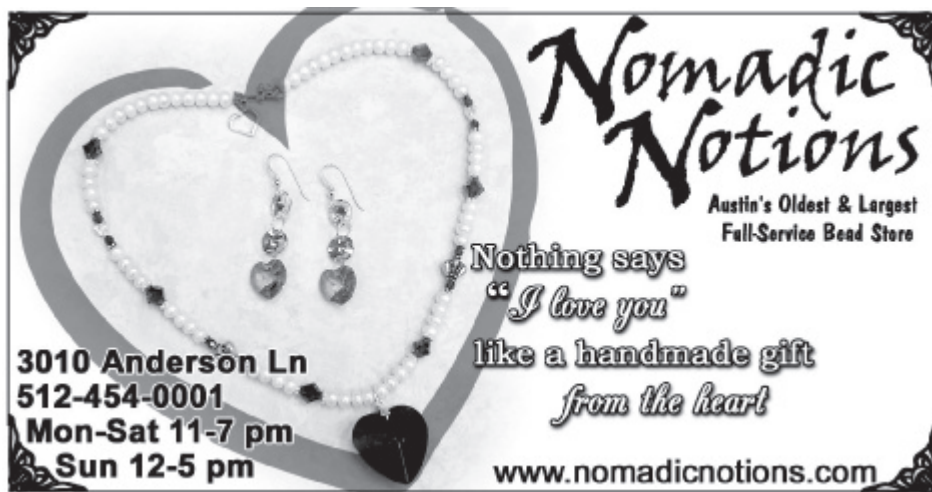
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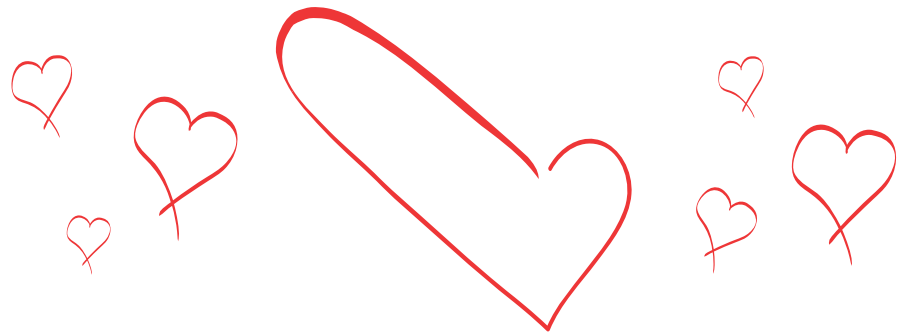


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Bonny Doon's Le Pousseur

The last decade has seen a huge increase in American consumption of **Syrah**. Whether one of the big, burly, bad guys of the east Washington dryland; the more elegant style from France's Rhône; or the teeth-blackening Australian version – called **Shiraz** by the natives – the grape is finding lots of friends in the U.S. The grape's main problem is its broad range of styles and flavors. Based on how early or late it is picked and how the grapes are cared for, Syrah can be a raging monster that can overpower any dish other than a dense casserole, or it can be a quiet wine ideal for a simple piece of grilled meat.

Randall Graham, president and resident eccentric of Bonny Doon Vineyard, has different ideas about wine than most Californians. Take the label of his

top Syrah, a wine he calls "Le Pousseur." It shows a "pusher" opening his coat and offering various herbs and flowers, trying to tempt with his gaze. Graham likes the concept. He's doing some pushing with this exceptional wine.

His goal, as you might guess from the French name, is to move more toward an elegant and food-friendly wine. This wine has the structure and tannic richness to go with a rich dish like a cassoulet, but it also has the big ripe fruit flavors to go with smoked meats. You usually only find that combination in the best Rhône wines, many of which are priced in the high three figures. Bonny Doon's Le Pousseur runs about \$15.

Le Pousseur is available from better wine merchants, including Whole Foods Market, Central Market, and many Twin Liquors locations. – Wes Marshall

wine
OF THE
week



Dude, Sweet Chocolate

408 W. Eighth, Dallas,
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www.dudesweetchocolate.com

Katherine Clapner has always had a reputation of fearlessness in the kitchen, forged by her work as an international pastry chef in New Orleans, Venice, and London and her work with American überchefs such as Charlie Trotter, Kevin Graham, and Stephan Pyles. In Austin, she fulfilled sweet-tooth dreams at the Mansion at Judges' Hill, Ranch 616, and the Hilton Downtown before being lured back to Dallas when Pyles opened his eponymous restaurant.

In a bold new step befitting her independent and creative personality, Clapner founded her own chocolate line, Dude, Sweet Chocolate, last spring. Her incredible chocolate confections are created and sold from her perma-



nent location in Dallas as well as online and are available in Austin now at Central Market and soon at Whole Foods. There are three main lines of truffle chocolates – "Dude," "Sweet," and "Other" – combining sweet and savory ingredients in unexpected flavor combinations, decorated individually with whimsical identifying designs. No ingredient overwhelms the palate; they each subtly complement one another and the flavor profile of the high-quality chocolate used in all her products. "I am all over the place," she states of her choices and influences, drawing from a palette of salts, fruits, and spices from around the globe.

My favorite Dudes are the **Maker's Mark Mint Julep**, **Provencal** (basil-pear jam and

rosemary salt), and **Marakesh** (fresh dates and *ras el hanout*, a Moroccan spice). Sweets favorites include **Tahitian** (passion fruit and citrus salt), **Apple Jack** (made with her grandma Molly's apple butter recipe and Jack Daniels), and **Hill Country** (local lavender and Zip Code Honey). Others such as **Inca** (tamarind and *leche quemada*), and **Black and Blue** (Young's stout and black currants) are also tantalizing. Clapner also makes **Chubby Nuts** and **Crack in a Box**, clumps of caramelized nuts tossed with French sea salt, covered in a double layer of white chocolate then dark chocolate (Chubby Nuts) or just dark (Crack). With every bite, there's a taste of hazelnut, macadamia, or almond followed by a salty hint, then crunchy caramel and, oh, the chocolate! But my absolute favorites are the **dark chocolate-covered marzipan-filled dates**. I've had plenty of chocolate in my fortysomething years, and I can safely say this is one of my most favorite ever. Lady, you are one awesome dude, indeed. – Claudia Alarcón

Event Menu Feb. 13-18

- Take your sweet baboo on a drive through the Hill Country for a taste of Merlot and Delysia chocolates at **Becker Vineyards** (www.beckervineyards.com, 830/644-2128). No reservations required for the complimentary tasting; chocolates will be for sale also. To attend the catered Valentine's luncheon (\$65 a person) or the Valentine's dinner (\$85), check out the menus online and call for reservations. Saturday, Feb. 13, 10am-6pm; Sunday, Feb. 14, noon-6pm.
- Experience the sensuous combination of Port, chocolates, and cigars at **Fumée Cigar Lounge** in Cedar Park (2403 S. Bell Blvd., 512/291-3863, www.fumeeworld.com). A \$40 advance couple's ticket (\$20 single) buys tastes of Quinta du Noval Port, chocolates from Viva Chocolate, and two cigars. Couples' tickets will be \$45 at the door. Sunday, Feb. 14, 7-10pm.
- Aspiring mixologists will want to sign up for **Tipsy Tech**, a 12-week intensive academic program covering all aspects of recreational imbibing. Weekly classes will be taught by award-winning Topsy Texan bartender **David Alan** and **Lara Nixon** and guest speakers at the **Twin Liquors Marketplace** (1000 E. 41st).

Enrollment fee is \$350 for the entire course, \$250 for members of the U.S. Bartenders' Guild. Students not seeking program certification can attend individual classes for \$35, space permitting. The registration deadline has been extended, so check out the class schedule at www.tipsytexan.com and sign up using PayPal at www.theblueruin.com. Tuesday, Feb. 16, 5:30-7:30pm.

- Freebirds World Burrito** (www.freebirds.com) and its charitable arm, Freebirds World Works, celebrate the opening of a new store in Round Rock (200 University Blvd., 904-0070) with charity partner the Central Texas chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors. Freebirds fanatics are encouraged to purchase \$1 COPS "badges of honor" to redeem for a free burrito. Proceeds benefit COPS. Thursday, Feb. 18, all day.
- The University of Texas speaker series on the **Foodways of Mexico** continues with a free presentation by culinary historian **Rachel Laudan** titled "Transplanted Cuisines: Migrants in the Making of Mexican Cuisine" at the Long Center for the Performing Arts (701 W. Riverside), AT&T Education Room. Thursday, Feb. 18, 6-7:30pm. – V.B.W.

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

There's a whole lotta celebrating coming up – **Valentine's Day**, **Chinese New Year**, **Mardi Gras**, and **Carnaval Brasileiro** – all packed into the next eight days. Check our print and online listings, then go out and have some fun! Kudos to **Nau's Enfield Drug** (1115 West Lynn) owners **Lambert and Laura Labay**, who received Mayor **Lee Leffingwell's** first Small Business of the Month award a couple of weeks ago. The soda fountain at Nau's is one of Austin's most enduring neighborhood dining destinations – long may it live... The Houston-based mega-chain **Spec's Wines, Spirits, & Finer Foods** (seven area locations) is bringing Houston-based food journalist John DeMers to the Austin airwaves. "In food and drink, as in music and politics, Austin has a lot of fascinating stuff going on. The new Austin show gives me the opportunity to say what I love about Austin every Saturday," says DeMers. Listen for the Austin version of his *Delicious Mischief* on Talk Radio 1370AM, Saturdays from 10 to 11am... Local **Les Dames d'Escoffier** members and marketing mavens **Paula Biehler** and **Cathy Cochran-Lewis** have joined forces to form **Crave Communications** (328-3935, www.craveusa.com) and are launching the new firm with a big party at parkside (301 E. Sixth, 474-9898) this week. Locals will know food publicist Biehler as the longtime owner of Paula Biehler & Associates and Cochran-Lewis as the former director of the Central Market Cooking School, a recent Whole Foods global marketing team member, and the past president of the International Association of Culinary Professionals. The multifaceted team will provide nationwide public relations representation to restaurants, chefs, cookbook authors, spas/hotels, cooking schools, and culinary events... For the past few months, both food print media and the blogosphere have been buzzing with discussions about restaurant reviewing, especially whether or not reviewing should be done anonymously and whether or not food bloggers should be held to the same ethical standards as print journalists. Thanks to *Chronicle* contributor MM Pack, I've just read a very coherent and educational essay on the history and future of restaurant reviewing by **Robert Sietsema** in the *Columbia Journalism Review*. Read the longtime *Village Voice* restaurant critic's articulate evaluation of the issues at www.cjr.org. It's worthwhile reading for food writers and food bloggers, as well as anyone else affected by restaurant reviews – restaurant owners, chefs, publicists, and diners... **Randy Goss**, co-owner of the popular **County Line** chain of barbecue restaurants founded here in 1975, died last week in a single-car accident near his home outside San Antonio. Randy was preceded in death by his brothers Rick and Rocky, who were also involved in starting the restaurants. We offer our sincere condolences to the entire County Line family.

2010: Year of the Tiger

Celebrate right, and the impossible just might be possible

BY KATE THORNBERRY

This year Chinese New Year falls on Feb. 14, when the Year of the Tiger will be ushered in. 2010 is not just the Year of the Tiger; it is the Year of the Golden Tiger. If that doesn't sound like economic recovery to you, you just aren't trying. It is a very auspicious year. According to online Chinese astrologer "BigCow," it promises to be "a dynamic" year, a "courageous" year, in which "things that have needed to get done but were not due to some blockage will be done or at least see significant progress being made." (Health care reform?) "The impossible just might be possible during this exciting time." (Oh, definitely!) In fact, "now is the time to attack the most difficult issues you face," because this year provides "one of [the] best chances of achieving a breakthrough!"

Chinese New Year, also known as Spring Festival, is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. The Chinese year very sensibly begins in the spring, at the beginning of the agrarian year. New Year's Day is the first day of the first month of the Chinese calendar, just as the American New Year's Day is the first day of the first month of the Gregorian calendar. The Chinese calendar, however, is lunisolar; each month begins on the first day of the new moon (also known as the dark of the moon). Holidays that are governed by moon cycles, like Easter, Passover, and Chinese New Year, move around and fall on a different Gregorian calendar day each year. If you aren't watching the phases of the moon, or have in fact lost all touch with the rhythms of the celestial firmament, you can just remember that Chinese New Year tends to occur between late January and Feb. 19.

Speaking of which, you know those entertaining Chinese zodiac place mats that tell you

your Chinese zodiac sign based on your birth year? Because of this "floating" New Year's Day, they're not entirely accurate for Westerners; if you were born in January or February, you may be going through life thinking you are a pig when you are really a dog. Or, as in my own case, thinking you are an ox, like all the rest of your friends, when you're really — oh I hate to admit this in a public forum — a rat.

The traditional Chinese New Year festivities, like most holidays the world over, are a mash-up of different traditions. To start with, New Year's Eve is the most important feast of the year, a feast at which the entire family makes an extraordinary effort to be together. The period around Chinese New Year is the time of the largest human migration on Earth, with 2.26 billion passenger journeys in a 40-day period, as the Chinese get home for New Year's Eve.

The feast itself playfully features dishes, the names of which sound like desirable occurrences: For instance, fish is always served, because the Chinese word for "fish" sounds like the word for "surplus." Dumplings, Buddha's delight, rice pudding, and mandarin oranges are traditionally served as well and represent luck, prosperity, a prosperous year, and fortune, respectively.

The most famous image of Chinese New Year celebration is the dragon parade, in which 60 or more dancers animate a gigantic papier-mâché dragon with an enormous devouring mouth, swirling and dancing down the street, allowing individuals and businesses to feed the dragon with money in exchange for good luck. (In Hollywood movies, high-speed chases have a tendency to collide with the dragon parade.) Legend has it that in ancient times, Nian, this particular



Chinese New Year candies at Hong Kong Super Market

JOHN ANDERSON

dragon (when he was real, not papier-mâché), used to devour the people when they gathered for the New Year's feast. Eventually, a wise man convinced Nian that human beings were unworthy of his palate and that it would be nobler to eat the wild animals that just happened to be plaguing the Chinese farmers. This ushered in a time of peace and plenty.

According to another legend, it was noticed that the dragon Nian was afraid of a small child who wore red. Therefore, painting the window frames and doors of one's house red as well as wearing red are advised. It is also thought that Nian is easily spooked by loud noises, and what's better than setting off thousands of firecrackers and energetically clanging cymbals?

Although no one wants to be eaten by Nian, it is considered lucky to be noticed by him. You are fortunate if he stops in his dance to gaze at you; if he does, be ready to feed him some money.

Chinese New Year is also the time of gift-giving. Rightly ascertaining that the best gift is always money, elders fill red envelopes with money to give to the younger folks. The gifts can be a few dollars or hundreds, but they must always be even-numbered amounts, for odd-numbered amounts are given at funerals, and you should not be thinking of funerals on New Year's Day. In fact, under-

takers traditionally hide all of New Year's Day so as to not to jinx anyone.

The single most important thing you can do to observe the Chinese New Year is to keep your focus on the good fortune you desire and banish all ill thoughts and sights. Everything possible must be done to attract good luck and prosperity and to focus the mind on joyful happenings. To prepare for Spring Festival, the entire house must be cleaned from top to bottom to sweep out all of the old bad luck, dirt, and dust. (When the blessed day actually arrives, you must not touch the broom or dustpan all day so that the new good luck won't be swept out by accident! Also, you must not touch scissors, because you might accidentally snip the thread of good fortune.) The home should be decorated with red paper cutouts, red lanterns, and auspicious poems and sayings. As mentioned above, a new coat of red paint should be applied to one's red surfaces, and it isn't a bad idea to get a haircut and an outfit of brand-new clothes.

Whoever or whatever you see first on New Year's Day will set the tone for the coming year (hence the voluntary hiding of undertakers). It is encouraged to forgive any grudges you may be harboring, to reconcile differences, and to sincerely wish happiness and prosperity to everyone. ■

Chinese New Year Festivities in Austin

Hong Kong Super Market (8557 Research) will host a traditional Chinese New Year festival on Sunday, Feb. 14. The dragon dance, featuring several dragons manned by the Texas Dragon/Lion Dance Team, as well as dragons manned by the Linh Son Temple Dancers, will begin at 11am, weather permitting. The air will resound with the fury of thousands of firecrackers, and auspicious foods such as candy and *bun tet* (sticky rice with pork) will be available for purchase. The dragons will dance around the shopping center, demanding payment and dispensing good luck to businesses and individuals alike.

Chinatown Center (10901 N. Lamar) will hold New Year festivities on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 20-21. This festival combines traditional Chinese elements with other Asian and American festivities. In addition to the dragon dance (featuring the Texas Dragon/Lion Dance Team and the Summit Dragon), there will also be Indian, Hawaiian, Japanese, and Chinese dance demonstrations; a fashion show; a rock-climbing wall; face-painting; tai chi demonstrations; Kiwi the Clown; live music; and appearances by Ronald McDonald and former Miss Asian American Texas Allyn Hoang. See a full rundown at www.chinatownaustin.com/events.

There will be two major festivals this year, and in the traditional spirit of good will to all, they won't be competing in the same time slot. Instead, the festivities are staggered, allowing the celebration of the New Year to be extended, as it is in China, where festivities can continue for up to 15 days.

All performances at both festivals are free to the public, but bringing some cash is encouraged, as some activities and all food vendors will be charging. Besides, Nian might notice you. Do you really want a year of bad luck just because you didn't have a couple of bucks to feed him?

The **Texas Asian Chamber of Commerce** hosts its annual Lunar New Year Soirée Friday, Feb. 19, 6:30-9:30pm at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum (1800 Congress) with cocktails, Asian hors d'oeuvres, a traditional Chinese dragon dance, music, entertainment, and presentations of awards and scholarships. Buy tickets (\$45 to \$80) at 485-1090 or www.txasianchamber.org.

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AMERICAN CAFE: RANCH 616 Frog legs? Chicken-fried quail? We'll just start with the Don Combo: a platter of half fried oysters and half calamari. 616 Nueces, 479-7616. www.theranch616.com. \$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, DESSERTS: HALCYON You'll find all kinds of espresso and coffee drinks, wines, scotches, and even a chocolate espresso martini. Snack on the sandwiches and desserts in comfy lounge chairs. 218 W. Fourth, 472-9637. www.halcyon.austin.com. \$

CHINESE: MONGOLIAN GRILLE Choose your meat, vegetable, noodles, and sauce, and let the grill master fashion a custom entrée just for you. 117 San Jacinto, 476-3938. www.mongoliangrille.com. \$\$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: TEXAS PICNIC COMPANY With more sandwiches than days in a month, all served on homemade bread, how can you go wrong? You'll also find wraps, spuds, and desserts. 603 Sabine, 473-2518. www.texaspicniccompany.com. \$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: EL SOL Y LA LUNA has a menu of breakfast specialties available all day. Try the Omelette Sol or the Omelette Luna. Live music on weekend evenings. 600 E. Sixth, 444-7770. www.elsolylaluna.austin.com. \$\$

JAPANESE: SUSHI GEISHA This spot offers perfectly decent sushi at relatively low prices. The Spider Roll is a standout, but don't miss the vegetarian choices. 616 E. Sixth, 480-2211. \$\$

PIZZA: THE ONION Offering smoked Gouda and Caribbean jerk sauce as topping options makes this an unconventional slice. 116 W. Fifth, 47-ONION. www.onionbaby.com. \$\$

SEAFOOD: WAHOO'S FISH TACO You'll feel like you're on vacation here, even if it's only a lunch hour. Regulars are addicted to the Banzai Bowl and keep coming back for tacos and Baja rolls. 509-A Rio Grande, 476-3474. www.wahoos.com. \$

THAI: THAI TARA This fashionable West Sixth Street outpost continues to be the destination for Downtown Thai food and atmosphere. 601 W. Sixth, 236-0856. www.thaitaracuisine.com. \$\$

EAST

AMERICAN CAFE, FRENCH: BLUE DAHLIA BISTRO Visit this casual, cool spot for cafe au lait, a cheese plate and wine, or a luscious open-faced tartine. Tasty and beautifully presented sandwiches, salads, soups, coffees, desserts, and breakfasts. 1115 E. 11th, 542-9542. www.bluedahlia.bistro.com. \$

BARBECUE: WILLIE'S BAR-B-QUE Plastic tablecloths, a walk-up counter, a TV in the corner, and delectable barbecue. This is some of the moistest, heartiest brisket in town. And the chicken jumps off the bone. 4505 E. MLK, 926-9340. \$

SEAFOOD: SHUCK SHACK Everybody loves shuckin' at the Shack. There is plenty of Pearl and Lone Star to go around, so pull yourself away from the washer-toss long enough for some fresh Texas oysters and shrimp. 1808 E. Cesar Chavez, 472-4242. www.shuckshack.com. \$\$

TEX-MEX: EL AZTECA With nearly 50 years of neighborly service and rich food, this family restaurant was one of the first local eateries to offer vegetarian options. 2600 E. Seventh, 477-4701. www.elaztecaustin.com. \$

TEX-MEX: JOE'S BAKERY & COFFEE SHOP Belly up to the lunch counter for homemade migas, tacos, and award-winning menudo; then step up to the pastry counter for *pedras*, *novias*, *cemitas*, and *capirotada*. The American choices draw raves as well. 2305 E. Seventh, 472-0017. \$

TEX-MEX: JUAN IN A MILLION Here you can find one of our favorite heart-attack breakfasts: gorditas with chorizo and fried eggs slathered with chile con queso. Arteries may harden around the room, but no one seems to care. 2300 E. Cesar Chavez, 472-3872. www.juaninamillion.com. \$\$

TEX-MEX: LA MORENITA MEXICAN RESTAURANT By the smells wafting around the bright brick-and-tile interior, you can guess what's on the menu, and that's just fine with the regulars. 2944-A E. 12th, 472-4841. \$

THAI: PAD THAI THAI CUISINE Appropriately, Pad Thai has pad thai on the menu, as well as hot pots and traditional curries. A bright interior, large portions, and friendly service add up to make this a regular stop. 1201 Barbara Jordan Blvd. #1220, 469-1778. \$\$

NORTH

BARBECUE: TEXAS ROADHOUSE Stop by for ribs that crumble in front of you and then melt in your mouth. Warm up with an order of Rattlesnake Bites. 13435 Hwy. 183 N. Bldg. 7, 336-7427. www.texasroadhouse.com. \$\$

CHINESE, INDIAN: MASALA WOK This ethnic fusion spot offers traditional Indian fare as well as Indo-Chinese dishes: a blend of wok cooking and Indian spices with plenty of vegetarian options. 1100 Center Ridge #300, 251-9696. www.masalawok.com. \$

CHINESE: FIRST CHINESE BBQ The style of cooking is Cantonese, the interior is bright and clean, and the portions are generous. Try the broad range of Chinese barbecue and seafood, or just stick with the delicious vegetarian options. 10901 N. Lamar #401, 835-8889. www.firstchinesebbq.com. \$

INDIAN: CURRY IN HURRY The authentic North Indian vegetarian menu here changes every day. Order an entrée and a side at the counter, and one minute later, it arrives with rice and roti or *paratha* alongside. The *aloo sabzi* is available every day. 2121 W. Parmer #114, 821-0000. www.gandhibazar.com/curryinhurry.html. \$

JAPANESE: BELUGA JAPANESE RESTAURANT This place offers a wide variety of fresh, affordable sushi and tempura. Try the Ahi Tower. 661 Louis Henna Blvd. #300, Round Rock, 512/255-6454. www.belugasushi.net. \$\$\$

PAN-ASIAN: BO ASIAN BISTRO The cuisines of Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, and Malaysia are represented in a serene, no-frills setting. 2711 La Frontera Blvd. #260, Round Rock, 512/388-6002. www.boasianbistro.com. \$\$

SEAFOOD: PACIFIC STAR RESTAURANT & OYSTER BAR An even mix of fried and broiled and a large palette of choices and combos. The perfect spot for seafood with a slightly Cajun tang. 13507 Hwy. 183 N., 219-5373. www.pacificstarfood.com. \$\$

TEX-MEX: VAZQUEZ RESTAURANT Regulars would rise at dawn for the breakfast here, but they swear by the enchiladas as well. 915 E. Braker, 837-2753. \$

VIETNAMESE: HUONG GIANG Featuring the cuisine of central Vietnam, Huong Giang has great selections of appetizers, soups, noodles, and rice plates. 9200 N. Lamar, 834-1736. \$\$

VIETNAMESE: LE SOLEIL One of the original Sunflower folks brings us a similar menu with a few new tweaks. Bottom line: It's good, dependable, and a fave of Viet families. 9616 N. Lamar #156, 821-0396. www.lesoleilrestaurant.us. \$\$

LAKE

AMERICAN CAFE: POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL A place with music mojo and damn fine burgers. It channels old Austin music treasures like Soap Creek and Checkered Flag. Don't miss the Poodie Burger. 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318. www.poodies.info. \$

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CHINESE: PAO'S MANDARIN HOUSE One of the few Asian places in the Lakeway area, this Chinese restaurant offers daily lunch and dinner specials as well as delivery. 2300 Lohmans Spur #134, Lakeway, 512/263-8869. www.paosmandarinhouse.blogspot.com. \$\$

NORTH CENTRAL

CHINESE, VIETNAMESE: KIM PHUNG CHINESE & VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT Most folks go for the bowls of pho or the *bun*, but you should give the dinners a try. The hot-and-sour soup rocks, and the lunch specials are delicious, big, and cheap. 7601 N. Lamar Ste. 1, 451-2464. www.kplamar.com. \$

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CONTINUED ON P.50

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SOUTH

AMERICAN CAFE, PUB GRUB: DOC'S MOTORWORKS BAR & GRILL Thirty-one beers on tap may remind us of a certain drinking game, but don't get too distracted to explore the eclectic and affordable menu. Several flat-screens do the job on game day. 1123 S. Congress, 448-8181. www.docsaustin.com. \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: ZAX PINTS & PLATES Find American bistro cuisine here: fluffy crab cakes, classic Caesar salads, and meaty burgers with blue cheese. Try the make-your-own Bloody Mary at brunch. 312 Barton Springs Rd., 481-0100. www.zaxaustin.com. \$

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JAPANESE: UCHI The sushi ranges from fresh scallops, tuna, and seafood to *negitoro* rolls, seaweed, and chicken salad, and all are highly rated. 801 S. Lamar, 916-4808. www.uchiaustin.com. \$\$\$\$

MIDDLE EASTERN: TARBOUCH LEBANESE GRILL AND HOOKAH The big deli case is full of baklava, fruit, flowers, and marinating lamb and beef. The portions here are enormous, and everything on the menu is made from scratch. 534 E. Oltorf, 326-2001. www.tarbouchfood.com. \$

TEX-MEX: CHUY'S ARBOR TRAILS This south-most location serves all of your familiar favorites, including the ever-popular creamy jalapeño sauce, in a brightly painted space punctuated by velvet paintings and metal palm trees. 4301 W. William Cannon, 899-2489. www.chuys.com. \$

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AMERICAN CAFE: COUNTER CAFE The crowd is attracted by the simple menu based on locally sourced, naturally raised, and often organic ingredients, paired with down-home friendliness. 626 N. Lamar, 708-8800. www.thecountercafe.com. \$

AMERICAN CAFE: HOUSTON'S is the kind of place you pass by without noticing. Next time you stop on West Anderson, stop in for a great prime rib or a filling, fresh Thai steak salad. 2408 W. Anderson, 451-7333. www.hillstone.com. \$

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FRENCH: LA MADELEINE Diners slide their trays down the cafeteria-style line to order quiches, salads, soups, and sandwiches on dense homemade bread and croissants. 9828 Great Hills Trail #650, 502-2474. www.lamadeleine.com. \$

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SOUTHWESTERN, TEX-MEX: Z'TEJAS Every dish on the menu has a surprise inside - some combination of ingredients that fills the time between ordering and the first bite with heavy anticipation. 9400-A Arboretum Blvd., 346-3506. www.ztejas.com. \$

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Live Through This

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Like most of TV-viewing America, I tuned into *Lost* last week. I did so reluctantly. I am not agog. I know I'm supposed to be – at least according to popular culture rags like *Entertainment Weekly*. I stubbornly hold on to the hunch that the show's creators are really winging it. But I have to say, I was not as annoyed by the show as I've been in the past. Or maybe I've just given in. Time travel, reincarnation, good vs. evil entities, that giant stone foot from Monty Python, an underground ratchet to change the order of the world? Sure. I'll watch that. But thank goodness something else has come along that also starts with a disaster scenario but stays clear of the smoke monsters, philosopher name-dropping, and all the other hinky things that I don't quite swallow on *Lost*. The series is called *Survivors*, and it premieres this weekend on BBC America.

Not to be confused with the reality competition series on CBS or even its BBC precursor that ran in the 1970s for three seasons (this version has been updated to reflect our dependence on technology), the new *Survivors* starts with a bug. It's a virus so virulent it nearly kills off the entire human race in a matter of days. Those who are spared or miraculously survive the disease are left in desolation: Everything looks normal, but with no one to push the right buttons or haul or deliver or do the thousands of other unseen chores that must be done to keep a basic infrastructure going, the world quickly falls into a preindustrial state – no electricity, no running water, no TV or radio, and no visible law enforcement. Everyone is left to fend for themselves.

The survivors are a core group of characters who meet by accident. Chief among them is Abby Grant (Julie Graham), a mother who is desperate to find her son, who was away on holiday when the virus broke out. Abby withstood the disease and now holds on to the hope that her son inherited her sturdy constitution. On the road, she literally runs into Greg Preston (Paterson Joseph), a former systems analyst who was already set on trading in his demanding job for a simpler way of life. Greg is a loner but can't help but be drawn to Abby's pluck. He invites her to join him on the road trip, his goal being to look for a small farm to start anew. They soon



BBC America's *Survivors* examines the aftermath of a world wiped out by a deadly virus.

run into Anya (Zoe Tapper) and Tom (Max Beesley). As a doctor, Anya saw the devastation firsthand. Shell-shocked and guarded, she discovers Tom on the side of the road, injured and in pain. As she tends to him, Tom explains that he fell in with the wrong crowd. Unbeknownst to her and everyone else, Tom may be more dangerous than anyone they can imagine.

In the meantime, party animal Al (Phillip Rhys) is drowning his despair with booze. He's careening down the empty streets in his sports car when he meets 11-year-old Najid (Chahak Patel). Al is loath to be responsible for an orphan, while Najid insists he does not need anyone. In spite of their immense differences, they become fast friends, bound by a shocking, unexpected moment when Al steps forward to protect the boy.

They meet other survivors along the way, but Abby, Greg, Tom, Anya, Al, and Najid are the core members of the group, each with various skills, secrets, values, and needs. As polar opposites, the matriarchal Abby and the impassive Tom spark the requisite – but never labored – discussion about the nature of humanity in this new, altered world in which they find themselves. Abby is pro-common-good and working for the best. Tom knows firsthand the evil man is capable of and goes along with the group as long as there is something in it for him. Whether Abby will reform him, whether the emotional land mines each character carries will be set off, and whether any of them will truly come to terms with the loss of their cell phones is what keeps this tightly woven series a must-watch for its 12-episode run.

Survivors premieres Saturday, Feb. 13, at 7pm on BBC America.

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MINING LAUGHS FROM QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND CONCERNS

Austin filmmakers get into the online act with the Web series 'Call Center'

BY MARC SAVLOV

"I've actually worked at quite a few call centers, including West Business, representing DHL, and that's what the material is based on."

So says 23-year-old Austin filmmaker Reagan Peterson, speaking about his 13-episode, Web-based series *Call Center*. It's part of a movement that, depending on how you choose to look at it, is either sounding the death knell of the traditional televised situation comedy or ringing in a new age of serialized, online comedy.

Either way, the three-minute chunklets of ensemble comedy are top-drawer stuff, slickly produced, shot with an eye toward roping in specifically online viewers (read: anyone under 30), and wittily written with spot-on cubicle-based humor and a cast that clicks. Think of the dry yuks of *The Office* married to the everyday absurdist wit of Mike Judge, and you're halfway there.

The classic sitcom format, encompassing everything from 1949's pioneering *The Goldbergs* to *Friends* and beyond, has been in a rough state of late. YouTube videos of kids saying and doing what even television pioneer Art Linkletter would be hard-pressed to call "the darndest things" are racking up more page hits than any online episode of *Gossip Girl*, and even sites that feature their own Web series – Funny or Die, the Cartoon Network's online Adult Swim offshoot – have done so sporadically and with questionable success.

So is this the beginning of the end for those of us who still, against all tech-pop odds, love *Lucy*?

"I think it's a little bit the reverse, actually," says Peterson. "I think the Internet is going to be the basis of future sitcoms with the ones that are most successful then going on to become TV shows. I don't think we're going to see the end of television anytime soon. If you really want to test a concept to see if it works, instead of investing millions on a pilot or a six-episode run, you can now use the Internet to invest a much smaller amount of money while testing a lot more ideas.

"With *Call Center*, I really wanted to show that here's an idea that I believe really has legs insofar as becoming a TV show. *The Office* is one of my favorite shows, but we deliberately went out of our way to give it an entirely different tone and narrative style," says Peterson of the show, which was co-developed by Galen Carter-Jeffrey and Barbara Clark. "I was really thinking of *Peanuts*, where you have a whole bunch of characters, but then you can pick and choose just one or two to tell individual comic stories within the larger framework."

And whaddya know? It works. Peterson's reference to Charles Schulz's comic page staple is both telling and almost metaphysically ironic: *Call Center*'s creation comes just as World War I flying ace Snoopy's print-media playspace is literally going to the dogs. The net's obliterating influence on virtually every aspect of old-school entertainment, from NBC's must-see TV to what your grandparents lovingly referred to as "the funnies," has occurred with unprecedented speed and unfettered creativity. As yet however, precious few ideas on how to financially support content like *Call Center* have truly succeeded. While shot on a budget that



COURTESY OF LOREN A. MELCHOR

Reagan Peterson (I) with actor Tony Bottorff on the *Call Center* set

would barely cover one day of craft services on a contemporary network sitcom, *Call Center* and similar webisodic series do indeed require a revenue stream to ensure their continued existence. But that hasn't discouraged the *Call Center* cast, crew, or director one bit.

"It's the strangest thing, how fast it's evolving," says Peterson. "Even two years ago when my partner Galen Carter-Jeffrey started this it felt like Web series were, at that point, somewhat beneath us and dominated by a lot of really lowbrow humor. But now it's evolved into this very serious medium in which everybody seems to be trying to make it."

Clearing the way forward for this new breed of online, short-attention-span sitcom may be even more of a challenge than generating ad revenue (or any revenue, come to think of it). YouTube's gargantuan lock on all things stupid-funny, from goofball LOLcats mash-ups to cheap 'n' fast video footage of some knucklehead popping zits on his back ("That one racked up somewhere between a quarter-million and a million hits," the *Call Center* director wryly notes), is the giant, pooping elephant in the room when it comes to sustaining smart online series.

"Storywise, all the big-budget Web series, for the most part, are just running through the numbers by giving viewers a product that might look good and may be entertaining, but is ultimately not that memorable. And," Peterson continues, "I don't know that [high, cinematic quality] is what the audience even wants. I just don't see the Internet reaching that hifalutin level. The online audience for this is chiefly the Judd Apatow generation who haven't seen anything [produced before] 1990. Which is kind of a shame and a travesty, because there's a lot of really great stuff that came before that."

You can watch all 13 episodes of *Call Center* at www.callcenterseries.com.

YOU THE LIVING

Tartan Video, \$19.93

The title of this 2007 Swedish film from cinematic sketch artist Roy Andersson recalls Ayn Rand's debut novel, *We the Living*, about post-revolution Russian miseries. Not an altogether off-base allusion, turns out: The sad sacks who people *You the Living*, in wide ties and dated hair, could easily be mistaken for the anti-chic of the Iron Curtain, hermetically sealed and only alert to pop culture and fashion trends decades too late.

The spiritual prints of Rand are pure speculation, but what the filmmaker explicitly acknowledges in the film's epigraph is the influence of Goethe: "Be pleased then, you the living, in your delightfully warmed bed before Lethe's ice-cold wave will lick your escaping feet." Translation: Get it while the getting's good. Hell of an intimation of impending doom, no?

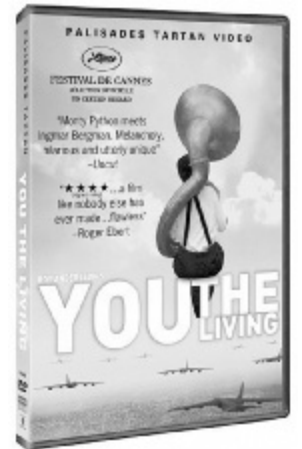
More accurately, *You the Living* charts an unrelated series of tiny dooms, culminating in one big bang of one (not since Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove* has a filmmaker so perfectly married gallows humor to horror). The camera is mostly static and hangs back – a medium shot is about as near to the characters as Andersson allows us. The frame makes a living curio cabinet, as the same depressives (rarely named) address the camera, revealing their ambitions, grievances, and dreams both daylight and nocturnal. "I had a nightmare the bombers were coming," says one man, startled out of sleep. "Nobody understands me," barks a woman on a park bench, her attentive lover mere inches away. She threatens suicide, then sends him away, but shouts to his retreating figure that she may be over later for dinner, a veal roast. An unseen banjo and sousephone start up – half oompah, half Storyville jazz band – and the woman, with bellowing contralto, sings about wanting a motorcycle to take her away from the mean-

inglessness of her life. The combined effect – the buoyancy of the song, the existential dread of the sentiment – is sublime.

The bleak, comical tableaux continue, and certain refrains emerge: "Nobody understands me." "Tomorrow is another day." "Last call." The denizens of this unnamed Swedish town are slumped, predisposed to defeat, yet weirdly endearing, even as Andersson keeps them spatially and narratively at arm's length. The secret weapon is the song: Creole music plays throughout, and it provides a sunny sonic uplift, nudging the action a few crucial clicks away from tragedy, toward absurdity.

In an included featurette, Andersson says he chose the music because it expressed the "creativity and vitality" of humans. More of that creativity and vitality are visible in the extras that explore *You the Living*'s set construction. The entire film takes place on soundstages, using trompe l'oeil and models from scale to miniature – key to Andersson's vision of the airless and washed-out world of the working class. Regular people, he calls them, in his fashionable collared shirts and surrounded by a crew that is fresh-faced, hale, even hip. The sight of them punctures the wonderful bubble created around the film. Suddenly, one worries that *You the Living*'s dour, ashen characters are an affectation – a caricature of ordinary people as interpreted by the extraordinary. Consider the pronoun again: *You the living*. So much for we're all in this together, huh?

– Kimberley Jones



dvd
watch



Never Coming to a Theatre Near You

Stephen Romano's continuing adventures in fake movies

BY MARC SAVLOV

Film trailers at their best are the seductive and primal essence of the films they represent. They are the tease, the come-on, the promise of cinematic bliss/adventure/thrills to come. By definition, they are *attractive*, whereas their full-length counterparts can be – and often are – anything but.

Now imagine an alternate reality where there would be no films, just film *trailers*, no coming attractions, just previews of them. Heresy, perhaps, but not without its merits. Imagine: All trailers, no features means never having to have sit through *Home Alone* (*Home Alone 2: Lost in New York*, *Home Alone 3*) or *Look Who's Talking* (... *Too*, ... *Now*) or Uwe Boll or confoundingly unnecessary remakes of *Rollerball*, *Death Race 2000*, or any Eighties-era slasher flick.

No one takes that alternate reality more seriously than Austin writer/artist/jack-of-all-cinematic-trades Stephen Romano, who just over a year ago released his hardcover magnum opus, *Shock Festival*, on an unsuspecting world (see “Shock and Awesomeness,” Oct. 24, 2008).

Ostensibly a deep down history of the lesser-known, darker corners of Seventies-era exploitation cinema, Romano's massive tome was in fact a completely fictional enterprise – not a one of the 101 “strangest, sleaziest, most outrageous” films covered within the 356 heavily illustrated pages had ever existed outside of the author's terminally fevered imagination. It was a fake, all of it, but an entertaining and whip-smart endeavor that paid homage to the *real* world of exploitation filmmaking

by fabricating an alternate cinematic reality out of whole cloth, celluloid, and fictitious, fame-hungry freaks who reminded readers of real-life 42nd Street rebels and bottom-of-the-bill blowhards.

The punch line? A sizable percentage of the people that picked up *Shock Festival* thought it was real, at least until they hit the endnotes that revealed the shocking truth behind the loving lie of the book.

Now Romano has followed up that epic project with a triple-disc, seven-hours-plus-long companion set that includes not only two crammed-to-bursting DVDs of the real-world trailers that inspired the book, but also 14 faux-trailers inspired by the book, created and submitted by fans and filmmakers from as close as Romano's Hyde Park backyard to as far away as Argentina.

Quick quiz. Which of the following *Shock Festival* titles is *not* an honest-to-badassness actual exploitation film?

- a) *Gone With the Pope*
- b) *Cry of a Prostitute*
- c) *7 Dwarves to the Rescue*
- d) *Dark Night of the Demon House*

Tough call, we know, but the answer is “d.” Maybe you're beginning to see what we mean when we say “alternate reality.”

□

The new DVD *Stephen Romano Presents Shock Festival* is, on the face of it, a lot like Synapse Films' ongoing *42nd Street Forever* exploitation trailer series (the most recent edi-

tion of which was officially branded/curated by the Alamo Drafthouse). But faces, as any genre film fan or Texan leatherworker will tell you, can be deceiving. Packed in between the raw, often brilliant, occasionally just plain bad trailers – real or not – are a cinemaniac's mad treasure trove of supremely exploitative extras, the most surprising of which is an entire MP3 disc-full of 312 long-forgotten radio spots (“*The Omega Man* ... more than fantasy ... maybe the future!,” for instance, or *Trick Baby*: “Shake hands with the boys in blue ... then count your fingers!”) and another half-a-disc's worth of equally obscure television trailers (less nudity, more hyperbole). But it's what Romano calls his “tribute trailers” that really blur the line between fake and not-fake.

“We hadn't initially planned on including [fake trailers] for the fake films that made up the *Shock Festival* book,” Romano says, “but the DVD company that I was working with, New Jersey's Pop Cinema, had already begun receiving fan submissions from people who really dug the book and were inspired to make their own faux-trailer accompaniment. We ended up with 14 completely original trailers for these films that only exist in the alternate reality of the *Shock Festival* project. It was really a case of people hearing about the project and calling me – often in the middle of the night – to say they wanted to make a trailer based on one of the films in the book.”

True to the spirit of independent exploitation filmmaking, not all of these faux-trailers are cutting-edge works of genius – but there are plenty of edged weapons dicing and slicing throughout.

“Some of them are kinda bad,” Romano admits with a grin, “but most of them are pretty good. A few were made by old friends of mine, like Dave Neabore, a musician and budding filmmaker who I've known since 1997, when we were working on a Lucio Fulci sound-

Stephen Romano's flight of fancy *Attack of the Sadistic Killer* takes wing in Nicanor Loreti's real trailer for a fake movie (l).



track together. We had been corresponding after the book came out, and he mentioned he'd love to do the trailer for *Dead Bugs on the Carpet*, so I told him, you know, ‘Go for it!’ And it's one of the best ones anyone made.

“And then there was Providence-based filmmaker Richard Griffin, who's done a number of independent genre features and ended up shooting a really great trailer for *Dark Knight of the Demon House*. We even received a trailer from some guys in Argentina for a *Shock Festival* film called *Thinking Man's Gun*, which is just this *wild* assemblage of lost clips from this non-existent film that actually plays really well as this made-for-video, Spanish action-adventure film. That was unexpected, but very cool.”

All of which makes Romano's literary-cum-audiovisual shriek-show one of the most deliriously meta, pomo, pop-culture mash-ups yet conceived. For the uninitiated, it can be downright difficult to discern where the dividing lines lie between the real and the freshly faked. (Thank god for interactive DVD menus.)

The commentaries – one by Romano and one by DreadCentral.com's Uncle Creepy – don't necessarily help sort things out, either; but Romano's, specifically, is akin to taking a History of Exploitation Filmmaking 101 class in and of itself. Eschewing the traditional trailer-specific route (best realized on TrailersFromHell.com, the flagship site of one-time Roger Corman-trailer-cutter Joe Dante), Romano roams far and wide from what's actually flitting by in supersaturated and/or slightly washed-out blood-red color on your screen. Instead, he rambles excitedly, entertainingly, informatively on and on, skipping like an axe blade across a lake of blood through the entire history of exploitation trailers and all relevant personages, including but not limited to Independent-International Pictures maven Sam Sherman (*Mad Doctor of Blood Island*, *Naughty Stewardesses*, *Blazing Stewardesses*),

who also gets his own on-camera interview and I-IP trailer section.

"Watching a trailer compilation is a kind of noncommittal movie-watching," Romano explains. "I think that it's an art form in and of itself. They're little movies, although the trailers that I most enjoy watching are not, admittedly, those that are known to your average filmgoer. They're not *Terms of Endearment*. The stuff I'm into and the stuff that I've included on the *Shock Festival* DVD are things that are just so far out there that they can be appreciated on multiple levels.

"For instance, there's the trailer for Lucio Fulci's *House by the Cemetery*, which is narrated by [the late monologist/David Letterman guest] Brother Theodore, who sounds absolutely crazy because, you know, he was absolutely crazy. So it can reach you on an ironic level, the level of just appreciating it because it's so over the top that it's hilarious. Then there's the genuine appreciation factor of really digging it because it's something cool and historical. Trailers from the Sixties, Seventies, and Eighties have a real timelessness to them that's lacking in modern trailers."

Which is, of course, a truism that cannot be denied by anyone who has been paying attention to the trailers-by-committee that have been coming out of Hollywood for at least the last decade. Think about it: What's the last in-theatre film trailer you saw that really made you squeal and drool and say to yourself, "If I don't see that film I am going to die." Chances are it wasn't for *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*, and if it was, you need some serious schoolin', kid. Personally, our most recent "gotta see it or gonna die" trailer was, unsurprisingly, the mangy, retro-meta double-team of Tarantino/Rodriguez's *Grindhouse*, all the way back in 2007. Why that one, you ask? As Romano explains, it's all about that narrator (or lack thereof):

"Nowadays you rarely come across a trailer with a narrator leading things around, and I think that's to the detriment of the modern trailer. In the Seventies you had instantly recognizable narrators like Percy Rodriguez, who did not only Steven Spielberg's *Jaws* but also the Enzo G. Castellari *Jaws* knock-off *Great White*, and guys like Adolph Caesar, who, apart from starring in [and earning an Academy Award nomination for] *A Soldier's Story*, also narrated hundreds of movie trailers including everything from *Dawn of the Dead* to *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. The really weird thing is that the trailer for Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez's *Grindhouse* is the only recent trailer that I can think of that has that old-school-style narrator, and, oddly enough, it's a voice actor they cast to sound specifically like Adolph Caesar, who died in 1986."

We all have our favorites: Andy Warhol's *Flesh for Frankenstein* and *Blood for Dracula*

are high on our personal list, alongside the eerie French animation of *The Fantastic Planet* and the ridiculously atrocious stop-motion hijinks of *Flesh Gordon*. For Romano, the connoisseur of cult, it's the purity of the exploitation that gets him every time.

"Trailers are an art form unto themselves, and if they're really good and they manage to pace it right – like the trailer for Abel Ferrara's *Ms. 45*, which is one of the best short films I've ever seen in my life – then it's almost as good as the movie itself. It accomplishes its mission, which is to make you want to go see the feature film, but at the same time it's also a perfect film by itself."

So what's Romano's favorite trailer on *Shock Festival*?

"*Pieces*," he says without hesitation. "*Pieces* is the greatest postmodern hard-sell trailer ever. It's less than a minute long, and it only has three images from the movie: a shot of someone pulling the rip cord on a chainsaw, a shot of a woman screaming, and then a shot of a guy backlit by the sun, coming at you, with the absolutely genius double tagline '*Pieces*: You don't have to go to Texas for a chain saw massacre. *Pieces*: It's exactly what you think it is.' It's basically the fundamentals of the hard-sell exploitation trailer in under a minute, complete with a giant, red 'Warning!' sign kicking things off. It's all about the hype, really, kind of like the cinematic equivalent of the carny barker whose job it would be to get the marks in off the midway and into the show."

□

Every good exploitation comes with a warning attached – "Just keep repeating: It's only a movie. ... It's only a movie. ..." – and Stephen

Romano's *Shock Festival* DVD is justifiably emblazoned with its own, which notes that between the grungy grindhouse goregasm and the flaming stewardesses and the dueling commentaries and the – god help us – multiple "easter eggs" to be searched for and found, the viewer will give up *seven hours* of his life to Romano's wild, wild world of exploitation real, reel, and surreal. And really, that's hardly too much to ask for one of the world's most neglected art forms.

Romano: "Between *Shock Festival* the book and *Shock Festival* the triple-DVD, this has been a three-year labor of love for me and, also, for the filmmakers who ended up doing these fake trailers out of love and for zero profit. Basically, I just wanted to say to the world, 'Hey, this is what inspired me to do the book; these are the trailers, for better or for worse, that made me who I am today, and, you know, they really are an art form in and of themselves, and one worth pursuing, collecting, and revisiting over and over again.'" ■

The 3-disc Stephen Romano Presents *Shock Festival* set is now available for purchase. For more info, visit www.myspace.com/shockfestival.



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All My Friends are Funeral Singers with Live Soundtrack by Califone
Director and Screenwriter: Tim Rutli

Zel, a fortune-teller, is aided in her prognostication by a band of ghosts, but when a mysterious light appears, she may have to give up the only family she knows. Cast: Angela Bettis, Emily Candini, Reid Coker, Kevin Ford, Joe Adamik, Jim Becker, Ben Massarella, Tim Rutli

Hubble 3D

Director: Toni Myers

Narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio and through the power of IMAX 3D, *Hubble 3D* will enable movie-goers to journey through distant galaxies to explore the grandeur and mysteries of our celestial surroundings, and accompany space-walking astronauts as they attempt the most difficult and important tasks in NASA's history.
(First Public Showing)

The Lost World (1925) with Live Score by Golden Hornet Project
Director: Harry O. Hoyt. Screenwriters: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (novel) & Marion Fairfax (screenplay)

In Hoyt's sci-fi classic, claymation dinosaurs came to spectacular life 70 years before Michael Crichton's modern retelling. Wyatt Brand helps to present Austin's premier alt-classical Golden Hornet Project and their new chamber-rock score. Cast: Bessie Love, Lewis Stone

The Passion of Joan of Arc (1928) with Live Score by In The Nursery (United Kingdom)

Director: Carl Theodor Dreyer. Screenwriter: Joseph Delteil

One of the finest achievements of the silent film era, Dreyer's portrayal of Joan of Arc uses extraordinary, expressive close-ups to create a moving, intense and flawless work. With a new score by In The Nursery, who utilize state of the art music technology with a unique symphonic style, to produce a hauntingly evocative soundtrack.
Cast: Maria Falconetti

The Unknown (1927) with Live Score by The Invincible Czars

Director: Tod Browning. Screenwriter: Mary Roberts Rinehart

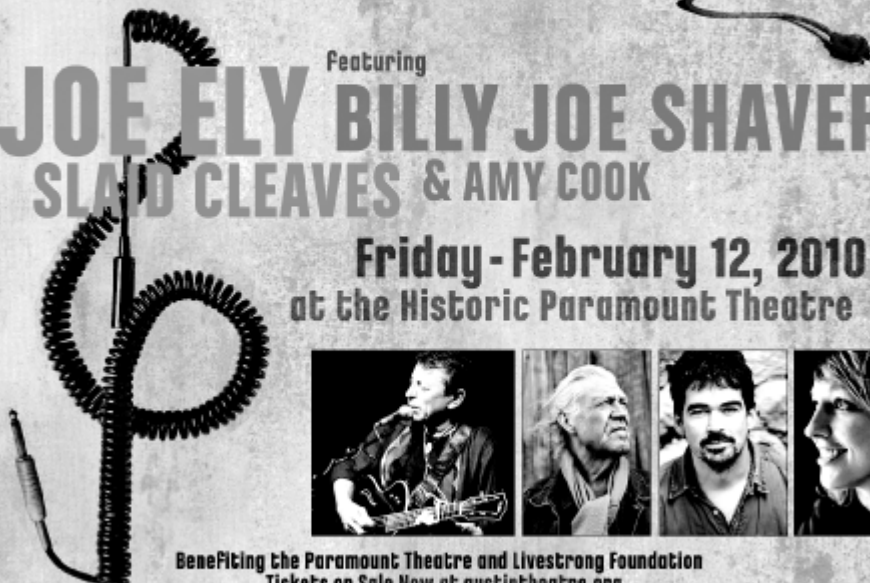

Wyatt Brand helps bring a film/music convergence event to SXSW Film with The Invincible Czars screening and live, original score for the 1927 silent classic *The Unknown* starring Lon Chaney as an armless sharp-shooter. Cast: Lon Chaney, Joan Crawford



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music

Texas Troika: (l-r) Griff Luneburg, Susan Svedeman, and Chris Lueck. Between the three staffers, they have almost 70 years invested at the Cactus Cafe.



TODD V. WOLFSON

Forsaking the Song, Part 2

"This was a very rash decision that was made without proper consultation from individuals and bodies that would have had something to say about it," professes **Dr. Thomas Garza**, one of the three faculty members appointed by **UT President Bill Powers** to serve on the **Texas Union board**, which as discussed here last week, approved plans Jan. 29 to phase out operations at the **Cactus Cafe** and terminate **informal classes** in August.

"There was no faculty representation there at all," continues Garza, who was at a conference in Indiana at the time. "I've been on this board for three years, and it's always seemed like business would go very much as prescribed, but this wasn't even on the agenda."

In what's become known as "**Cactus Gate**," **University of Texas at Austin Executive Director Andy Smith** proposed the cuts to save an estimated \$122,000 per biennium (not annually, as previously reported here), a move unanimously endorsed – but not voted on – by the board's six student representatives (see "A' Is for Axed: UT Chops Cactus, Cuts Classes," News, Feb. 5). Powers backed the decision at last Tuesday's town hall meeting but was alarmed to learn of this recent revelation. "If there's an advisory board, it ought to have the full input of the group," he told the *Chronicle* (see "UT Budget Cuts," News, p.24).

Garza is now among the 23,000-plus aligned with the "**Save the Cactus Cafe (Austin, Texas)**" Facebook group, which promises to raise the necessary funds to preserve the campus landmark. The group, along with filing for status as a nonprofit called **Friends of the Cactus Cafe**, announced a detailed counterproposal on Saturday at **Maria's Taco Xpress** that included marketing initiatives to increase revenue and enhanced access to the venue for students through internships, artist residencies, and booking opportunities.

"Money is an issue, but it's not the primary issue," shifts Student Government President **Liam O'Rourke**, who has visited the Cactus five times in five years and only to watch his fellow students perform. "It's a student building and student space, and students should be the ones leading all efforts to program and use it. ...

"Several people have mentioned that there's space all over campus, but the Cactus is a place with rich history and students want to play there. The main change that's occurring is the change in management."

While the Cactus already hosts an open mic night and is readily available for booking by student organizations, not to mention that a new **Student Events Center** is already being built, the larger issue was laid out succinctly by **Lyle Lovett** in the *Chronicle* last year (see "Blood on the Tracks," Feb. 6, 2009) in

celebrating longtime venue manager/booker **Griff Luneburg**: "Griff is the Cactus."

To suggest that the UT student body would have more success at running the venue than the Cactus' three main employees – Luneburg, bar manager **Chris Lueck**, and part-time staffer **Susan Svedeman** – with a combined 70 years invested at the venue is to ignore the fact that the Music and Entertainment Committee and the African American Culture Committee, two divisions of the **Texas Union Student Events Center**, spent close to \$60,000 just to bring **Busta Rhymes** to the (mostly empty) **Austin Music Hall** in 2004.

"That the decision was about the impact of these institutions on the undergraduate student populations, I find that at best to be a red herring," concludes Garza. "That's not the only constituency that the Union is supposed to serve. It's also about faculty, graduate students, and yes indeed, it's about the community."



Dikes of Holland



Elvis

PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

Greetings From Beerland, Texas

Gerard Cosloy should be the head of **Beerland's** visitors bureau. While the **Matador Records** co-owner's three-night, 17-act release party for his hand-picked compilation *Casual Victim Pile* resembled any given weekend at the Red River roundup – thanks to the convulsive **Stuiffies**, a barrel-scraping punk assault from the **No No No Hopes**, and **Love Collector's** blitzkrieg bop – there was one notable difference: There were people there. Lots of them. Even **Waterloo Records** owner **John Kunz** churned out a commemorative Beerland penny on Thursday as headliner **Follow That Bird!** scraped its nails across **Sonic Youth's** "100%," echoing the feedback duets of trio **Kingdom of Suicide Lovers**. Protected by two Stormtroopers, **Elvis** crossed over to the dark side on Friday with an androgynous assault of psychotic post-punk, not unlike the graveyard boogie of **Dikes of Holland** from the previous night – all dark hollers and reverb, with a rotating cast of vocalists that improved at every turn – eclipsed only by the monolithic grind of **Woven Bones**. Earlier on Friday, the **Fleshlights** reworked the **Golden Boys'** comp contribution "Older Than You" with brash, youthful abandon, but that did little to dim the Boys' definitive Saturday night choogle. Feeding off the energy of a capacity audience, **Harlem** capped the weekend in historic fashion with equal parts girl-group swoon, disheveled pop, and celebratory drunken swagger, the kind of performance that leaves you begging for **Ambien** just to come down afterward.

Energetic Disassembly

In the January issue of **Decibel** (**Mastodon** cover), **Watchtower's** second LP, *Control and Resistance* – a hypersonic display of prog-metal fission, originally released by Germany's Noise Records in 1989 – got inducted into the publication's album hall of fame. The disc was so far ahead of its time that the local quartet – bassist **Doug Keyser**, vocalist **Alan Tecchio**, drummer **Rick Colaluca**, and guitarist **Ron Jarzombek** – is just now putting the finishing touches on a follow-up, *Mathematics*, and there's talk of a coinciding reissue campaign. "It's been a slow but steady process," relays Keyser. "[The new album] will be along the same lines but with 20 years of natural progression." While Watchtower is gearing up for a reunion at Germany's **Keep It True festival** in April, don't expect any local engagements anytime soon. "Would they dare put on a Watchtower show in Austin without me on vocals?" asks original vocalist and still most visible torchbearer **Jason McMaster**, who left the group to join **Dangerous Toys** but may cameo on *Mathematics*. "They might, but I'm a little bummed I won't be the guy behind the microphone."



Watchtower, 1990

Random Play

● An unfortunate postscript has emerged in the wake of *Crazy Heart's* success. As reported by *The New York Times* on Friday, **Mary Keating Bruton** is contesting the will of her late husband of 13 years, **Stephen Bruton**, who filed for divorce two months before his death in May 2009 and left the majority of his \$1.2 million estate to his brother **Sumter**. The suit claims essentially that the Austin guitarist/songwriter was exploited as his health deteriorated by his co-music supervisor on the film and estate executor **T Bone Burnett** and that, due to the effects of medications and his worsening condition, he was unable to handle his business affairs. Bruton's longtime manager **Ken Kushnick** could not be reached for comment.

● Layovers at the **Austin-Bergstrom International Airport** are about to get even more comfortable with the addition of the **Saxon Pub**. "It'll be a mini replica of what we do," confirms owner **Joe Ables**, who hopes the outlet will be open in time for the South Austin staple's 20-year anniversary celebration in mid-April, if not sooner. The venue will be booked by airport music coordinator **Nancy Coplin** and should give **Ray Benson's Roadhouse** a run for its money.

● For once, there's some good news to report from **City Hall**. **City Council** plans to approve today (Thursday, Feb. 11) the creation of a 96-hour sound amplification permit (Item 17), a compromise that will enable locals to host live music during festival season without having to become full-time venues in the process. See "City Hall Hustle," News, p.16, for the full breakdown.

● Two former **South by Southwest** keynote speakers, the **Kinks' Ray Davies** and **Courtney Love of Hole**, are returning for showcases at SXSW 2010. Other notable new entries into the March sweepstakes include the **Dixie Chicks** offshoot **Court Yard Hounds**, **Band of Horses**, **Voivoid**, **GZA**, and **Death**.

Aural History

Hannibal Lokumbe and Jeff Lofton's Jazz Traditionalism

BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

"I don't know him," admitted Jeff Lofton of Hannibal Lokumbe a few weeks before this issue's cover shoot. "That's somebody I'd like to connect with and play with, because he's a great player and he's played with some great people." The photo op, by all accounts – Lofton and Lokumbe blowing their trumpets – was great as well. The two jazz men and their wives even have dinner plans already. Beyond that, a generation apart, their stories trace the same spine, beginning in South Carolina, stopping early at Beethoven – Ninth Symphony (Lofton) and "Ode to Joy" (Lokumbe) – lunching on John Coltrane and Miles Davis, and finishing with Duke Ellington, both interviews. Lofton: "Ellington and Sun Ra – if I could play with those two musicians that would be it. I would love to be on a bandstand with Cootie Williams [laughs]. Cootie Williams is one of my all-time trumpet-playing heroes. That sound – that *sound*. Nobody emulated him. Nobody even came close." Lokumbe: "The first time I met Duke was at a festival on Long Island. He and my mother were in the back of the dressing room talking. It was Valentine's Day. I'll never forget it because Duke had on these black boxer drawers with red hearts and a do-rag." Jazz's aural history begins here.

HANNIBAL LOKUMBE

Hannibal Lokumbe had always wanted to live in Harlem and did.

"Do they have a sweat lodge?" asked Grandfather White.

Lokumbe, born Marvin Peterson in Smithville, laughs at that question nearly 20 years later. In the Pine Ridge Mountains of South Dakota, working on a commission with the Kronos String Quartet for what became *Dance Chief Crazy Horse Dance*, the trumpet player told the spiritualist leading the sweat, a purification ceremony, that space was scarce in New York.

"Then leave immediately."

He did.

Lokumbe bought land in Rosanky ("where I'll live for the rest of my days") in 1995, which he estimates is 8½ miles from where his great-grandfather finally settled as an escaped slave.

"This was a person that ran for his life with a half brother created by the slave master

who bought him and raped his mother," nods Lokumbe gravely. "He escaped a plantation in Charleston, South Carolina, at 14 years of age, with his half brother and his aunt, and he ran and walked 'til he got to Highway 304, at Upton Road [in Smithville].

"There he worked two years clearing the railroad and bought 101 acres of land – paid for it cash. After that, he never worked for anyone else as long as he lived. And he raised 15 children. The church he founded is still there, Zion Hill [Baptist Church]. Past the church, if you cross the creek, that's where he baptized my mother. Anywhere in that area my history is 100 years old. That's why I came back."

His mother, now 95, never strayed far.

"Yesterday was exceptionally bright and full of life for her," beams her son and caretaker in

an exceptionally sunlit corner of the Eastside Cafe. "She recounted stories about long-lost relationships and her days at Huston-Tillotson [University], sneaking off to go hear Louis Armstrong."

Like mother, like son.

'Pithecanthropus Erectus' or 'Eat That Chicken'

"James A. Wilson was the school band director," begins Lokumbe, 61, recounting stories about long-lost relationships and mother-sanctioned weekends touring Texas with Otis Redding and Etta James when he was 14. "He had these beautiful drums out so I started on drums. When I made my entrance

Jamming with three of Coltrane's volcanic quartet equals a tiny fraction of historical landmarks at Lokumbe's crossroads, which include Jackie Wilson, Lightning Hopkins, T-Bone Walker, Rahsaan Roland Kirk.

into the inner courtyard of the projects, it was so loud that my mother, standing on the back porch, she pointed and I did this beautiful about-face, and took it on back.

Lokumbe laughs. Stories are this man's art. "So then I saw the trumpet. I said, 'Ooo.' Something moved inside me. Mr. Wilson said, 'Before you play trumpet, you have to buzz this mouthpiece.' Man, I played all *kinds* of stuff on that mouthpiece, so he gave me the horn. He invested heavily in me. When he showed me the C scale, I came back the next day and knew the C minor and D major scale. If he gave me three scales, I learned six, because I realized he had a son my age and he was taking three hours of his time every day after school that he could be home with his son. So I made

CONTINUED ON P.60

Hannibal Lokumbe



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

Jeff Lofton



JEFF LOFTON

Growing up the son of an Army drill instructor virtually defines the concept no picnic. Harder still was the DI himself, stationed at Fort Jackson in South Carolina.

"When my father came up, it was very difficult to be an African-American in the U.S. Army," states Jeff Lofton with a hard smile. "So, for him to have made drill instructor, and to have garnered the respect of the people, he had to be pretty tough. Not to mention making it through two wars – unscathed pretty much. He was a Bronze Star recipient."

Taking honors courses in chemistry, Lofton was in line for an analytic, left-brain life, except he was starting to write classical compositions without any real training.

Sitting in a plush corner of the Hotel Saint Cecilia bar one misty January morning, the local trumpet player warms the cool 1950s vibe of the empty room with his ever-genial current.

"At home it was pretty intense. Not as tough as you might imagine, because he was actually getting out of it, so it wasn't as bad as it might have been if I was"

He thinks for a second.

"My brother."

Was it bad for your brother?

"Ummm, probably not, because he followed instructions," laughs Lofton. "We learned quickly to follow instructions. We were very well-behaved and disciplined kids."

So too is Lofton's tightly woven post-bop, disciplined but spirited. Last fall's Austin

debut, *Jazz to the People*, his second CD, braised local Top 10 lists with the lyricism of his silver horn. "Never bashful of his admiration for Miles Davis, he's crafted a sound largely around Davis' formative quintet of the late 1950s," wrote Jay Trachtenberg (see "Texas Platters," Nov. 27, 2009). Lofton's simmered blear meets Alex Coke's tenacious sax and Red Young's piano matte, while rhythmic coupling Chris and Masumi Jones lock in Blue Note precision. "Mouth of Gabriel," one of the session leader's originals, gilds the gutbucket.

"That was the other thing about my dad," adds Lofton, vetting his father's "great" singing voice. "He could do so many things. He took advanced thermodynamics without any real background in it and passed. It really showed me something even though it wasn't

always enjoyable growing up. It gave me the ability to learn trumpet – to stay with it, to practice, to listen to hours and hours of music and do the things it takes to become a professional musician."

That decision was made for the trumpet player as a senior in high school, where he'd planned on becoming a physics major, and, eventually, either a physicist or engineer. Taking honors courses in chemistry, Lofton was in line for an analytic, left-brain life, except he was starting to write classical compositions without any real training – like father, like son.

"It came to the point where there was no choice in the matter," shrugs Lofton, 43. "I had to study music. That caused a bit of conflict."

CONTINUED ON P.61

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THE SOFT PACK

The Soft Pack (Kemado)

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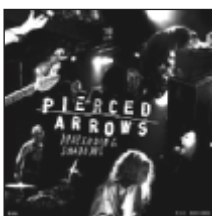
MAGNETIC FIELDS

Realism (Nonesuch)

Realism, is the flipside to the industrial pop of *Distortion*. *Realism* was cut in the distortion-free environs of a Los Angeles studio, and its sound is as pristine as a plein-air painting. There are no drum kits to be heard, and the fascinatingly varied instrumentation - guitars, accordions, violins, cellos, tablas, banjos, tuba, even a smattering of mellifluous falling leaves - did not need to be plugged in.

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PIERCED ARROWS

Descending Shadows (Vice)

Promising to herald a new generation of fans steeped in the progeny which Dead Moon influenced, *Descending Shadows* will provide longtime followers of the Cole's work with a new vital installment of what Fred once described as rock'n'roll that's rough, ragged, and honest, a sincere answer to the void of emotion lacking in today's era.

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Crows (Rykro)

Oscar and Grammy nominated songwriter Allison Moorer returns with a refined collection of songs that mark a stylistic departure from her previous work. On *Crows*, Moorer combines an astonishing vocal performance with new material primarily written on piano, rather than guitar.

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AZIZ ANSARI

Intimate Moments For A... (Comedy Central)

Aziz Ansari presents *Intimate Moments for a Sensual Evening*, his debut standup comedy album. You may know Aziz from his work on "Parks and Recreation", "Human Giant", or maybe "Flight of the Conchords". Perhaps you know him from his role as Randy in Judd Apatow's film, "Funny People". Whatever the case, why not buy this album? What are you going to spend the money on instead? A JUICER? Do you really need a juicer?

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TORO Y MOI

Causers Of This (Carpark)

Toro Y Moi is the sound the world has been waiting for. This multi-cultural juggernaut gathers up the best musical elements from around the globe R&B, Indie Rock, Electronic Dance and Psychedelica and creates something-freaking-else! Over the course of his first groundbreaking full length "Causers Of This", Toro Y Moi turns the aforementioned musics upside-down with his breathtakingly innovative approach. The incendiary power of Toro Y Moi's funky synth and guitar play, pumping digital rhythms and gorgeously bright vocal harmonies makes for a formidable combination.

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THE ALBUM LEAF

A Chorus Of Storytellers (Sub Pop)

For the first time in five albums, The Album Leaf recorded as a whole band. In the past, almost every instrument was performed by principal songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Jimmy LaValle. This time the whole band was invited to participate and the result is their best record yet. Mixed by Birgir Jon Birgisson (of Sigur Ros).

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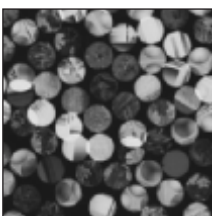
CHARLOTTE GAINSBOURG

IRM (Elektra)

The title is derived from M.R.I., which reflects the medical procedure Charlotte had to go through after suffering a head injury in a water skiing accident in 2007. The album is Charlotte's most personal to date, and is produced by acclaimed Grammy nominated artist/multi-instrumentalist Beck.

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FOUR TET

There Is Love In You (Domino)

The past four years' experimentation has been highly beneficial. Having such an ownable 'sound' can often be a blessing or a curse and trying to move forward often results in albums taking tiny steps as opposed to large strides. But in *There Is Love In You* we see one of the last decade's most early pioneers reminding us all that he's still just as important as ever.

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TEMPER TRAP

Conditions (Glass Note)

Debut album from highly-acclaimed Australian rockers Temper Trap features very polished production, which gives the album a very big sound that compliments the band's pop sensibilities.

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THE EDITORS

In This Light & On This Evening (Fader)

In This Light & On This Evening represents a significant step forward for the band following the huge successes of debut album *The Back Room* and the #1 follow up *An End Has A Start*. Whilst all four members were keen to make a far more electronic record, they were determined to 'give the machines a human feel' in the words of lead singer Tom Smith.

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BEACH HOUSE

Teen Dream (Sub Pop)

Teen Dream is the third album from the Baltimore-based duo Beach House, and their Sub Pop debut. The new album gives voice to a full universe of unbridled imagination, and the manifestation of *Teen Dream* has been a welcomed and all-consuming obsession for Beach House the past 9-12 months. *Teen Dream* will be packaged with a companion DVD featuring a video for each song on the album, each by a different director.

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VARIOUS ARTISTS

Crazy Heart Original Soundtrack (New West)

The soundtrack features 16 songs including the original songs performed in the film by Jeff Bridges and Colin Farrell, The Weary Kind performed by Ryan Bingham and music featured in the film by Waylon Jennings, Buck Owens, Sam Phillips and many more. The soundtrack was co-produced by 10-time Grammy Award winner T Bone Burnett. Burnett, who co-produced the soundtrack with Stephen Bruton..

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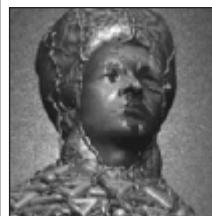
FLAMING LIPS

Embryonic (Warner Bros.)

The Lips nod to Neil Young, Pink Floyd, and Walt Disney as always, but also to Joy Division, Santana, and Gary Numan. Defying its own title, *Embryonic* presents a band discovering that the far edge of an idea is often more compelling than its core. - Onion AV Club

Deluxe CD & LP Available

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YEASAYER

Odd Blood (Secretly Canadian)

If *All Hour Cymbals* was Yeasayer's attempt at global and ambient cultural mash-up then their new album, *Odd Blood*, takes place in an off-world colony sometime after the Singularity. Glimmering reverb haze is eschewed and replaced by a cascade of disorienting pitch effects and flickering ectoplasmic wisps.

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NICK CAVE & WARREN ELLIS

The Road: Original Film Score (Mute Records)

Nick Cave and Warren Ellis have created an evocative score featuring violin and piano with beautiful fleeting melodies and eerie sound loops filled with terror and suspense. The threat of all-too-real cannibal gangs is heightened by disturbing loops and frenetic percussion. A small ensemble of wind instruments adds further scope.

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CORY CHISEL

Death Won't Send a Letter (Black Seal)

A dark and urgent Rock 'n' Roll vision from the singer/songwriter. With Grammy-winning producer Joe Chiccarelli (The Shins, The White Stripes) at the helm, Cory's songs have transformed into lush and nuanced recordings that never sacrifice his emotional vulnerability or his rich and unique vocal tone.

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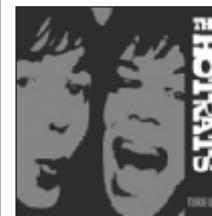
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VARIOUS ARTISTS

Putumayo Presents: Rhythm and Blues

Putumayo's newest release, *Rhythm & Blues*, features first generation soul legends and rising stars of the retro R&B revival. It's the label's first album exclusively dedicated to the genre. The 60s and 70s rhythm and blues of The Four Tops, Otis Redding and The Supremes, among others, became a global phenomenon and has inspired a new generation of artists who are reviving the classic soul sound.

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THE HOTRATS

Turn Ons (Fat Possum)

What began as Gaz and Danny taking a little time out from their Supergroup commitments for a studio lark has now resulted in a modern day psychedelic punk descendant of Bowie's Pin Ups: often irreverent and sometimes initially unrecognizable but always loving and respectful reimaginings of 12 classics spanning 40 years of rock, punk and even hip hop.

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REAL ESTATE

Real Estate (Woodst)

Real Estate waft in on vibes of hazy summers past. The New Jersey quartet of Martin Courtney IV, Matthew Mondanile III, Etienne Pierre Duguay and Alex Bleeker cut the sleeves short and the pop smooth to shade you from the midday heat. Every song works its way to that part of your consciousness that reveled in the fleeting waves of freedom that eeked in once classes broke and the sun lingered a little longer over suburban roofs.

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LOKUMBE CONTINUED FROM P.58

the most of it. He taught me theory, and more importantly, he taught me about the world.”

According to *The New York Times*, John Coltrane himself schooled Lokumbe too.

“That’s a misstatement,” he says shaking his head. “John Coltrane is my musical hero, but I never got to meet him.

“I got to meet Elvin Jones—I got to play with Elvin Jones. I got to meet Jimmy Garrison. I got to play with Jimmy Garrison. I got to meet McCoy Tyner, and I got to play with McCoy Tyner. But Trane was gone when I got there. He was gone.”

Jamming with three of Coltrane’s volcanic quartet equals a tiny fraction of historical landmarks at Lokumbe’s cross-roads, which include Jackie Wilson, Lightning Hopkins, T-Bone Walker, Rahsaan Roland Kirk. Wikipedia lists among Lokumbe’s collaborators tenor sax individualist George Adams, one of Charles Mingus’ cult. Moving to NYC in 1970 facilitated just such hookups for the Texan.

“Mingus saved my life in many ways,” Lokumbe pronounces. “He always asked me to play with him, but at the time I was playing with Roy Haynes.

“I was on a three-month tour in Europe

and I was exhausted. I came back to New York, and I felt I needed to make a change. My last gig in a club downtown was at Sweet Basil. I made something like \$7,500, which is extraordinary for that time. I looked out in the audience one night; I’d dodged the dope man—I got tired of dodging the dope man. The whores. I thought, ‘You know, I’m the grandson of a farmer.’ He always taught me that when you plant seeds, you have to plant them at least six inches deep or the wind will blow them away, or the birds will eat them. I felt like I was planting on top of the ground.

“So Sunday is the last night you play at Sweet Basil. You start Tuesday and go to Sunday. That Saturday night, I looked out during the second set we played, and I took my mouthpiece out of my trumpet and I walked into [the] Village. I spent the whole night walking and crying and praying. I was still playing with Gil Evans, so this is around ’85. Walking around, that’s when I saw Mingus. He was eating. I forget the name of the place. Every time I’ve ever saw Mingus, if he wasn’t playing, he was eating. This time he was eating a roast chicken, with half a gallon of orange juice. So I stopped in.

“He said to me [in a raspy voice], ‘So you

finally gonna play with me?’ And George Adams was in the band then. ‘So, now—you ready? You ready? You ready? You ready to play with me?’

“I said, ‘I’m always ready, Mingus.’

“He said, ‘Well, I don’t see you onstage.’

“And he’s eating, you know.

“I said, ‘I’m still learning so much from Roy Haynes.’

“He says, ‘I got a great drummer, too.’

“I said, ‘You know, Mingus, I need to ask you something.’

“He says, ‘As long as it ain’t for no money.’

“I said: ‘I’ve been on tour for three months. I’m all right in that category.’ I said: ‘But when I was in the New Morning club in Paris, I saw David ‘Fathead’ Newman, my dear friend. We were talking. And I was so hurt at how exhausted he looked.’

“I’ll never forget that long as I live. See, he and Nina Simone and I were talking. We were talking about the music and what it takes to play the music—what’s required of us, you know. She said, ‘Hannibal, you have to stop playing like that.’

“I said, ‘What do you mean, Nina?’

“She said, ‘You’ve got to stop giving them everything.’

“I said, ‘But I can’t help it.’ We were laughing.

“She said, ‘You should never give them everything.’

“So I said to Mingus, ‘I need you to tell me what I can do to not be on the road when I’m 70 years old, ripping and running up and

down the road, playing all this divine music that’s going in one door and out the other.’

“And in between a bite of chicken he said: ‘You start writing more! Start writing more.’

“That’s the same thing John Lennon told me. Our sons were about the same age, so usually we’d talk about diapers—what the best diapers were. Lennon, too: ‘Composing, Hannibal. It’s a beautiful thing. It also allows you to see your son grow up.’”

Little Wing

Browsing jewelry at the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar with the girlish half of a two-teen household certainly constitutes John Lennon’s Mr. Mom ideal for his Greenwich Village diaper pundit. Lokumbe’s grown son was collaborating with his father in New Orleans, where the brass handler had remained after a three-year residency at the Contemporary Arts Center beginning in 1999, when Hurricane Katrina hit. Settled now into Bastrop since 2005 (while still owning his other property in Rosanky), Lokumbe’s post-traumatic empathy lies with Haiti today. He’s already envisioning musical aid: “Can You Hear God Crying?”

Premiered at Carnegie Hall in 1990, *African Portraits* wasn’t Lokumbe’s first conceptual triumph. *Children of the Fire*, an acclaimed 1974 suite for full orchestra, led the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra to commission *Flames of*

CONTINUED ON P.62

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“I appreciate Lester Young when he’s playing a ballad and all you hear at the very end is his breath. Or Dexter Gordon when he’s just about to play a note and you hear that whoosh come in, that softest little sound.”

LOFTON CONTINUED FROM P.58

DI must have freaked.

“There was some consternation, yeah definitely,” laughs Lofton. “He grew up in the Depression, I mean *literally* – in Mississippi.”

Sgt. First Class Willie Lofton had his own household to blame. His wife’s 1970s Wurlitzer piano and ubiquitous keyboards; their daughter’s school band involvement and eldest son buying the first O’Jays and Earth, Wind & Fire albums; Ramsey Lewis, Herbie Hancock, Chuck Mangione even. Then came the “crucial moment”: Jeff’s discovery of a Gene Ammons LP with earliest Charlie Parker convert/sideman trumpet Howard McGhee in the family stack of records.

“When we were little – *little* kids – they would get all the cousins together, put some music on, and have a dance contest. Everyone would come up and do their steps; ‘Oh, he looks like Michael Jackson.’ That was just a totally normal part of our culture. No one

thought about it. It’s just like, ‘Everyone dances.’ Everyone understands basic concepts of where ‘the one’ is in the beat,” chortles Lofton. “The whole James Brown thing of ‘on the one’? Well, of course it’s on the one. Where else is it going to be?”

“Well, unless you’re swinging, and then it’s on the two and four.”

Impossible to say where said grounding resides in free jazz – the chaos theory of the genre – but the Papa Jazz Record Shoppe in Columbia, S.C., where Lofton was enrolled at the university, offered multiple answers: Art Ensemble of Chicago, Cecil Taylor, Ornette Coleman. The 1980s dawned with Lofton’s band the Fellas – the name borrowed from Spike Lee’s *School Daze* – piling percussive mash-ups atop acoustic bass, electric piano, trombones, and a clarinet mouthpiece attached to a piece of copper tubing. Voilà, do-it-yourself bass clarinet!

CONTINUED ON P.62



Joe Bonamassa

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LOKUMBE CONTINUED FROM P.60

South Africa, released the same year Lokumbe had a Lakota Sioux-like experience in Kenya – 1979. *Flames of South Africa*, in turn, begat *One Heart Beating* for the Philadelphia Orchestra, which prompted the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's hiring Lokumbe to write *Dear Mrs. Parks*, an oratorio for desegregation symbol Rosa Parks.

"She and I went over the score note for note," offers her collaborator simply.

Lokumbe's tenure in the band of jazz's Leonard Bernstein – composer/arranger Gil Evans – almost from the moment he arrived in NYC to the Miles Davis mentor's death in 1988, proved a master class in composition.

"Seldom did we talk about music," counters Lokumbe. "Mostly we spoke about how to roast a turkey. And Gil Evans made the best roast turkey I ever had in my life. We'd take long walks, down in Battery Park, all the way down to the Staten Island Ferry, just talking. Seldom would we talk about music. It'd always be a thing like, 'Hannibal, check this out.' He gave me a piece by Maurice Ravel, because I had let him hear *Flames of South Africa*. I'd never heard of Maurice Ravel, but the inflections and compositional sensibility were the same. It was amazing! That's how we were with music."

A 2009 United States Artists Fellow, one of 50 recipients (including Terry Allen) receiving \$50,000 from the L.A. nonprofit, Lokumbe's played Austin exactly once, last June at the Long Center as the jazz core of Conspirare's Rock My Soul concert. The horn-blower's dreadlocks and drummer Brannen Temple's sunspot Afro constituted the sprawling choir's eye of the quiet storm. Lokumbe's performance of *Dear Mrs. Parks* on Saturday at the Bob Bullock Museum will feature a quintet led by Dr. James Polk, plus three narrators and a "large choir." That's "Hannibal" Marvin Peterson" singing "Crosstown Traffic" on 1974's *The Gil Evans Orchestra Plays the Music of Jimi Hendrix*.

"I never met Hendrix, but it was very important to hear his music, just like it was very important for me to hear Miles [Davis'] music, because after Louis Armstrong, there was no sound on the trumpet like Miles.

That's why I fell in love with Hendrix, and ultimately why I decided to sing the pieces on Gil's record. After T-Bone [Walker], I hadn't heard anything on the guitar that made me jump up like that until Jimi.

"T-Bone told me something. He said, 'Baby brother' – that's what they always called me. He said, 'Baby brother, watch this.' We'd be playing in this old juke joint in Lane City, Texas, you know – sawdust on the floor, above the hog pen. You smell hog shit. And we're playing, you know, we're playing and he says, 'See the one in that red dress there, with the pearls around her neck?' He said: 'Watch this. I'm going to bring her right over here to me. I'm going to make her stand right there.'

"I'm 14 years old, man. I'm studying about the Magna Carta. That's what I'm seeing in school, right? Russian revolution, you know. And here's this man telling me that with an instrument he's going to make this woman come 10 feet and stand right in front of him.

"He said: 'Watch. Are you ready?'

"I said, 'Yeah.'

"She's with this big guy, man, big guy. They're dancing. So [T-Bone] goes"

Through pursed lips, Lokumbe emits a high whining note as if from a guitar and lets it reverberate. He starts tapping out a beat on the floor with his feet. He hits the note again, and again. He mmm-mmmms a bass line, lets it pulse, then the note. Again and again and again. Until that woman's standing right in front of the Lone Star State's electric guitar god – big guy right behind her and not happy about it. Lokumbe thought it was a ruse.

"Of course later I said, 'Yeah, it's true,' because in the cotton fields, when it got too hot to bear, my grandparents stopped talking about the business of the day and the business of the village – who got married, who was born, who died – and they started singing. And when I'd take them water in a bucket, they'd throw it up in the air.

"They wouldn't need it 'cause of the music.

"So I put all that stuff together." ■

Hannibal Lokumbe presents Dear Mrs. Parks at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum's Texas Spirit Theater on Saturday, Feb. 13, 8pm. Reservations required; call 936-4649.

HANNIBAL LOKUMBE

Dear Mrs. Parks (Naxos)

America's civil rights struggle has long proved a fertile source for artistic expression, as this stirring and ambitious endeavor will attest. Acclaimed trumpeter/composer Lokumbe was commissioned by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra to write an homage to heroine Rosa Parks. Recorded live last year in the Motor City, it's largely a classical piece but bears the overt influences of gospel, blues, jazz, and African music. As early as 1974, Lokumbe was a venerated mainstay of the NYC jazz community and began experimenting with large ensembles, employing the Harlem Boys Choir on his highly regarded 1981 LP, *The Angels of Atlanta*. Likewise, his decade-long tenure with the incomparable composer/arranger Gil Evans informed the colors, textures, and jazz sensibilities on display here. Lokumbe's orchestral masterpiece, *African Portraits*, which debuted in 1990 at Carnegie Hall and has since been performed more than 200 times, is the logical precursor to this spiritually uplifting project. From the reverential opening to the thunderous finale, replete with two choirs and four solo vocalists, dear Mrs. Parks would be most proud.

★★★

– Jay Trachtenberg



LOFTON CONTINUED FROM P.61

"So that was my early musical training," recounts Lofton. "I started off as a free player and worked my way back to bebop and the cool school and all those things, because, in a lot of ways, that stuff was just too hard for me to play at that time.

"I got into bop when I felt my chops were more up to it. I was ready to sit down and study this music the way it needs to be studied to play it. That's why I didn't play out much in my 20s and 30s, really playing like a lot of people do. I felt like I needed that time to develop my sound, develop my playing, before I even presented it to somebody. Took me a while."

Relocating to Dallas in 2002 for his first wife's career brought him most of the way to the Texas state capital, and her settling here with the couple's now 8-year-old daughter after their divorce bridged the rest. Jeff and his current wife, local publicist Dean Lofton, moved to Austin from South Carolina three years ago, the two having played together in the same high school horn section.

"Trumpet playing is real linear as opposed to piano playing, which is very horizontal in a sense, because you're creating chords. You've got multiple notes, whereas with a trumpet you go high to low," explains Jeff. "One of the things I try to do musically as a player is to take the concepts of the keyboard, things McCoy Tyner does or Art Tatum – especially Art Tatum and Oscar Peterson, and of course Bud Powell – that are multiple concepts, and put it into a linear instrument; see how I can make that linear sound seem multiple.

"[Coltrane] does that too, when he does the whole wall of sound thing. Part of the wall of sound is not merely to get as many notes in a measure as you can, but to create a multilayered sound that resembles a multisound instrument. That's what 'Trane's doing. 'Tranian concepts are based on what happens with a piano player. That's what I'm trying to achieve when I do things like 'Mouth of Gabriel.'"

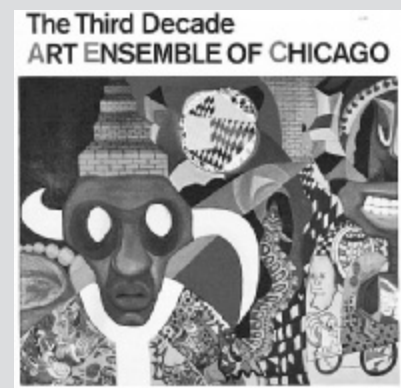
Typical for Lofton, "Gabriel" blows its horn from the heart, not the head.

"Why do I like Lester Bowie more than I like Don Cherry? Because he's more lyrical. It's that simple. Bowie can play some beautiful stuff over some of the sweetest things you've ever heard. That's as big a part of music as anything else, because without that you can't express the emotional side of the music. It's the lyrical part, the melodic part that allows the emotion to come across to other people.

"I listen to Miles [Davis] a lot obviously, and one of the greatest things about Miles is how he approaches playing softly. Anybody can get Dizzy Gillespie, playing up here. Anybody can get Freddie Hubbard. It doesn't take much to understand what



LESTER BOWIE ESSENTIALS BY LOFTON



1) Art Ensemble of Chicago

The Third Decade (1984)

2) Art Ensemble of Chicago

Urban Bushmen (1980)

3) Art Ensemble of Chicago

Art Ensemble of Soweto (1990)

4) Lester Bowie

All the Magic! (1983)

5) The Leaders

Out Here Like This ... (1987)

Maynard Ferguson is doing. We know this. Everybody gets it as soon as they hear it.

"But Miles playing 'My Funny Valentine,' when the audience says: 'Huh? What did he do?' I want that. I appreciate Lester Young when he's playing a ballad and all you hear at the very end is his breath. Or Dexter Gordon when he's just about to play a note and

you hear that whoosh come in, that softest little sound. I pride myself in being able to play as loud as anybody, or as soft as anybody.

"I love beautiful lyrics. When I play a ballad, I'm not thinking about the notes I'm playing or the chord structure. I'm thinking about the rendition of Johnny Hartman

singing it so that I can try to sound like him – that I can sing through the horn. If I'm playing 'My One and Only Love' or 'My Foolish Heart' I can't not think about Johnny Hartman. I can't not think about Sarah Vaughan if I play 'Misty.' That's hugely important in getting an audience to listen to you. If you want them to listen to how much technique you have, then you damn sure better play a ballad somewhere in there."

Ever play a ballad and hear your father singing it?

Jeff Lofton considers the question.

"Yeah," he says finally, "'Georgia,' because he's a big Ray Charles fan." ■

Jeff Lofton's 1950s Miles Davis Tribute, featuring compositions and interpretations made famous by the Miles Davis Quintet, including selections from Kind of Blue, blows down the One World Theatre, Saturday, March 13, 8pm. www.oneworldtheatre.org

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BROKEN TEETH

Viva la Rock, Fantastico! (Perris)

Peak recording plateaus, a one-time occurrence for most musical acts, are giddy audience worship. Broken Teeth's fifth album since 1999, *Viva la Rock, Fantastico!* follows up the local hard rock quintet's career high *Electric* CD in 2007 with even greasier lightning, which given the previous disc's steel horns constitutes the miraculous. Where the oi chant of *Electric*'s "Hangin' by the Skin" signaled the LP's overall tip of the schoolboy cap to Angus Young and AC/DC, *Fantastico!* rips the same down-'n'-dirty paradigm with sleeker absorption but no less a metallic backstory. Opening slap "Blackheart," for instance, stings with the rhythmic hornet's buzz from an electric version of Big Joe Williams' "Baby, Please Don't Go." Part two of this left/right combo TKOs next on the strength of "Exploder," a bricks-and-mortar rocker seemingly left off the Cult's own *Electric*. Guitarist Jared Tuten's yank-and-crank riffs throughout *VLR*, in tandem with David Beeson, embody the third track's title, "Spitting Nails." "Dressin' Up in Flames" heats its thermostat in the vicinity of mid-1970s Kiss – Dangerous Toys on "Twister," anyone? – while "Break the Spell" conjures *The Razors Edge*, *Flick of the Switch*, and *Who Made Who*, the arena chorus of "Back on the Road" making for another deceptively simple but brilliant Jason McMaster bottom-line lyric ("get your ass back on the road"). Then again, too-pandering sentiment "All Hail the Altar" ("of rock & roll") mishandles an otherwise ripe tempo. Even when a song feels half-baked ("Get Outta Here Alive"), it's less than three minutes. Conversely, a no-frills beater like "Bullet" reaches bull's-eye on gut efficacy and a spot-on solo. The title track gallops too earnest not to elicit grins, particularly given McMaster's Tex-Mex Spanish. *Viva la Rock, Fantastico!* should end there but continues on two songs, including *Too Fast for Love*-era Mötley Crüe-ish closer "Ride Upon Glory." Shit may look easy, but it ain't.

★★★ – Raoul Hernandez

JOHNNY GIMBLE

Celebrating With Friends (CMH)

He may be nearing his 84th birthday, but Johnny Gimble is proof that music can keep you young. Affectionately produced by Asleep at the Wheel's Ray Benson, *Celebrating With Friends* is a straight shot of the hot jazz and Western swing that the fiddle great is known for and, as the title suggests, with an impressive lineup of guests: Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Vince Gill, Dale Watson, the Wheel's Jason Roberts, Jesse Dayton, and Garrison Keillor. That doesn't prevent Gimble's granddaughter Emily from nearly stealing the show with a sultry reading of "If I Had You." Watson's smooth rendering of "I Needed You," a song Gimble co-wrote with Bob Wills – Gimble was a Texas Playboy off and on from the 1940s into the 1960s – will have you sighing gratefully. Excellent musicianship, admirable vocal performances, and judicious song choices make *Celebrating* an early leader for best traditional country record of the year.

★★★★

– Jim Caligiuri



RECKLESS KELLY

Somewhere in Time (Yep Roc)

Reckless Kelly's 2008 album, *Bulletproof*, proved its most mature and substantive offering to date, the local quintet brandishing its polished Red Dirt roots-rock with purpose. There was perhaps no better time, then, for the Braun brothers to pursue the long planned tribute to their former hometown hero, the "Idaho Cowboy" Pinto Bennett of the Famous Motel Cowboys. RK handles Bennett's tunes with familiarity and ease, adding their own flair while never losing the true honky-tonk heart of their origin. While lead-off "Little Blossom" blisters and the Joe Ely-aided "The Ballad of Elano DeLeon" kicks, neither stray far from the band's sound, but "I've Done Everything I Could Do Wrong" and "I Hold the Bottle, You Hold the Wheel" take decidedly un-Reckless turns around the dance hall. David Abeyta doubles his powerhouse guitar with saturating lap steel to match Cody Braun's fiddle, but it's Pinto Bennett's own take on "Thelma" that still proves the highlight.

★★★

– Doug Freeman



COLLIN HERRING

Ocho

Collin Herring has finally met his production match. While the Austin-via-Fort Worth songwriter's previous three efforts have been solid, serving up electric-honed alt. country in the vein of Son Volt, *Ocho* finds its intensity through subtlety. In large part due to Will Johnson's production, whose own work echoes throughout the album, Herring's songs are here given an appropriately



arranged weight to the often dire bent of his sentiment. "Nothing's wrong, and nothing's good," Herring sighs in a trembling tenor on opener "Nothing's Good," and that tortured ambivalence laces the album throughout, much like Vic Chesnutt's complex balance of yearning and spite. "Seemed to Be" powers behind the intimidating percussive of the Monahans' Roberto Sanchez, but it's the weary crawl of "Trazodone" and closer "Little Aches" that best captures Herring's conflicted pull. The barrage of jump cut phrases sliding through "Kill the Cover" and the delicate pall of "Young Ones" pillar the edges of *Ocho*'s sound, though the attempted melding of the two in "Hit Miss" is less effective, and the rock unraveling of "Passed Away" takes a step backward in the wake of its brittle distortion-fed rancor. For all the album's heft of desperation, it achieves a genuine catharsis, if only for a tenuous moment.

★★★★

– Doug Freeman

SPEAK

Hear Here (Playing in Traffic)

R.E.M.'s earliest recording, 1982's *Chronic Town* EP, revived the truncated platter format successfully during vinyl's last hurrah with punk and disco. The five songs within were dark and different, a bellwether of the changes ahead as the Georgians shaped indie rock's future. Believe it if it feels like Austin quartet Speak's first recording is just as poised to change the musical landscape cultivated by the latest crop of young homegrown talent. In five songs, Speak dusts off irresistibly familiar pop-rock turf on the New Wavey "Carrie (Mindful)" and in the 1970s falsetto stylings of "Stand by Us." The fresh and engaging Britpop inflections of "Louder" and "Foreign Love" are traded for electronic pulse to Troupe Gammage's neo-Beach Boys vocals of the group's show-stopping, radio-ready "I'd Rather Lie." If the new paradigm of music is putting out what you have when you have it, crank up the volume: The future just got a lot brighter.

★★★★

– Margaret Moser



MIDLAKE

The Courage of Others (Bella Union)

Like Thoreau at Walden Pond, Midlake's 2006 breakthrough, *The Trials of Van Occupanther*, retreated into a romanticized past, weaving a timeless folk narrative of saints and stonecutters. With long-awaited third LP *The Courage of Others*, the Denton quintet delves deeper into winter contemplation and 1960s British folk, except that wistful longing for a simpler time has been replaced with a mournful tinge of regret for its passing. More than two years in the making, *Courage* is deceptively dense, evinced by the subtle build of opener "Acts of Man" and the heavy psych guitar that carves



through "Winter Dies" like a handsaw. The interplay between guitarists Eric Pulido and Eric Nicholson takes on Pentangle proportions, while the melancholic "Bring Down" hints at the Radiohead grandeur of the band's 2004 debut, *Bamnan and Silvercork*, albeit with flutes instead of synthesizers. Despite its meticulous craftsmanship and ornamentation, Tim Smith's stoic delivery throughout – detached and downtrodden – ultimately turns *The Courage of Others* into a sepia-toned slumber.

★★★

– Austin Powell

A MONUMENT CARVED WITH SERPENTS

Taking cues from Liars' *Drum's Not Dead* and Beach House's recent *Teen Dream*, the eponymous 2009 debut from A Monument Carved With Serpents includes a DVD with videos for each of the LP's 11 songs, but that's where the similarities end. The ambitious local duo – Tim Gerron on drums and co-producer Jeff King on everything else – crafts mostly instrumental space rock that pulls equally from Pink Floyd's orbital psychedelia and the blackened undertow of Isis, without ever reaching either of those peaks, while opener "Seven Passing Sights" hints Ratatat at half-speed as glam guitars melt with glacier pacing. AMCWS sounds incomplete without a proper vocalist ("I Am Gorgeous on the Inside"), relying instead on a variety of sound clips, and Gerron has more room to maneuver than he employs. The accompanying videos help bring the band's vision into focus ("Vietnam," "Astronaut Song"), but plaques shouldn't be more engaging than the monuments they commemorate.

★★

– Austin Powell

THE GARY

Logan (Cedar Fever)

On 2009 debut EP *Chub*, local trio the Gary elbowed out room at the bar, espousing everydude-isms within its own brand of "slop rock." Its full-length debut delivers a slightly more sober version of the Gary. Take opener "QSB," a tangle of thick-stringed downstrokes and sinewy minor keys, under which bassist Dave Norwood laments: "We lose ourselves in broad strokes. We lose ourselves in all folks." On *Logan*, Norwood's heavy hand plays as much a part as Trey Pool's wiry guitar and drummer Paul Warner's leveling thrash, and all three combine for standouts "(Eyes in the) Tap Room" and the Ezra Pound-referencing "Ancient Music," channeling the Minutemen as much as Dead Moon. The first half-dozen songs are fantastic; the last four don't slouch either, especially "False Sunrise." It's a bit of that tried-and-true Dischord formula: Loud, primitive music can be enlightened as well.

★★★★

– Audra Schroeder



LEAD STORY

In January, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers confiscated a live, jeweled beetle that a woman was wearing as an “accessory” on her sweater as she crossed into Brownsville from Mexico. Blue jewels were glued to a chain the beetle’s back, which had been painted gold, and the mobile brooch was tethered by the gold chain attached to a safety pin. Even though the woman orally “declared” the animal, the beetle was confiscated because she had not completed the bureau’s PPQ Form 526, which is necessary to bring insects into the country. Reportedly, such jewelry is not that rare in Mexico. A spokesperson for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals was, of course, appalled.

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

Economic Recovery in Denver: As of early January, at least 390 new Denver businesses had applied for sales-tax licenses as dispensaries for medicinal marijuana. By comparison, Starbucks coffee shops number 208 in the entire state of Colorado. Among the first cannabis-centered businesses to open, in December, was Ganja Gourmet on South Broadway Avenue, which features lasagna, pizza, jam-balaya, paella, flavored cheesecakes, and other delicacies, all “spiced” appropriately for customers with doctors’ prescriptions.

Jeweler Colin Burn, of Broome, Australia, announced in October at the Asia Adult Expo in Macau that he will make the world’s most expensive personal vibrator, in 10 limited editions, out of smooth platinum, each with 1,500 white diamonds. He said he planned to shoot for a price of \$1 million and noted that he currently offers a similar sex toy with only 400 diamonds (but with a handle made of rare conkerberry wood) that he sells for \$38,000.

Professor Evgeny Moskaev of Russia’s St. Petersburg Technological University announced in November that he had perfected a somewhat-useful powdered version of Russia’s favorite drink (vodka). However, after much experimentation, he had found that the only way to preserve the alcohol was by mixing the liquid vodka into a special wax and letting it harden. According to a November report in the English-language version of *Pravda*, the resulting shaved chips could then be flavored to counteract the wax’s insipidness, and might be used for cooking or medicine. Instant vodka mix for straight drinking does not appear to be in professor Moskaev’s plans.

In 2008, Sweden, one of only seven countries with embassies in North Korea, began trying to coax that country into the global economy by encouraging the manufacture of jeans, which Sweden in turn would arrange for sale in high-end stores. After a series of awkward missteps (e.g., a textile manufacturer, unfamiliar with the concept of “jeans,” said no, but the director of a mining company decided to accept the project), 1,100 pairs were finally shipped and priced at the equivalent of about \$215 a pair, according to a December Reuters dispatch from Stockholm. (The “NoKo” jeans were initially given shelf space in at least one store, but now they are offered only on the store’s website.)

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



After the *New York Post* reported in December on the 175-square-foot Manhattan apartment recently purchased by Christopher Prokop and his wife (for \$150,000, with \$800 monthly in maintenance fees), residents of even smaller Manhattan digs told the *Post* they were unimpressed. For instance, Felice Cohen, 39, rents a 90-square-foot apartment (\$700) with a loft bed, but admits that she must sit sideways on the toilet. Freelance event-planner Eddie Rabon rents a 55-square-foot palace for \$800 a month (closer to midtown than Cohen’s). He can almost touch both side walls simultaneously and cannot easily turn around while showering. Commented the residents, respectively: “We love it,” “I love it,” and “It’s fantastic.”

LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

He’s a man of distinction, but that is of little comfort in the tight economy. Actor Jonah Falcon, 39, is out of work and living once again with his parents in New York City, according to a January report on AOL News. A 1999 HBO documentary touted Falcon as possessor of the world’s longest penis (13½ inches, aroused). He has appeared in mainstream film and TV roles (*Law & Order*, *Melrose Place*, *The Sopranos*), but has refused to do pornography. “If I did porn, nobody would take me seriously.” However, he added, “I wouldn’t be opposed to doing a nude scene (in a mainstream film) if I got the right part.”

The recent Christmas bonus season was rough at the RF Brookes pizza-ingredient factory in Wigston, England. Workers received only gift containers of pudding (“plum duffs”) with a use-by date of March 2009, but accompanied by a letter from management assuring them that food technicians had certified the product as safe to eat in January 2010. (After numerous employee complaints, the company apologized and offered fresh plum duffs.)

SLUT BIRDS

A team of researchers led by a University of Connecticut professor, writing recently in the ornithology journal *The Auk*, declared the local salt-marsh sparrow to be America’s most promiscuous bird, in that 95% of the females hook up with more than one male during a mating season. The likelihood that any two chicks in a nest had the same father was only 23%, and in one-third of the nests, all chicks had different fathers. The researchers hypothesized that the frequent flooding of Connecticut’s marshes destroys so many nests that non-choosy females have gained evolutionary advantage. (A wren in Australia and a parrot in Madagascar are said to be comparably promiscuous.)

LEAST COMPETENT DEER

A seven-point buck was found dead in Viroqua, Wis., in November, apparently after losing a head-butting contest with a cement-statue buck. Ramming contests are common during mating season, and the cement buck was about the same size as the dead one (but weighs about three times as much).

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Two partners in crime were sentenced to four years in jail between them by England’s Manchester Crown Court in December. Ali Abdullah, 28, and Muqtar Nuren, 22, had offered to take driver’s license tests for people (both driving test and written test), but on contingency payment only for passing. Between them, they had 35 clients, took 43 tests and failed 33 (passing only seven driving tests and three written). Although they did not charge for their failures, it is of course illegal to take a driver’s license test for another person.

Recurring Themes: 1) Brandon Stepp, 27, and two companions were arrested in Parkersburg, W.Va., in December after they became the most recent alleged drug runners to hide their marijuana unsuccessfully in their car’s engine compartment. (The engine got hot; the dope caught fire.) 2) A man fled without money from a Taco Bell in Haverstraw, N.Y., in October after being the most recent robber to conduct his transactions out of order. He first announced the robbery, but before the cashier could gather money for him, he asked the store manager for a job application. When the manager refused, the man walked out, empty-handed.

A ‘NEWS OF THE WEIRD’ CLASSIC (JANUARY 1999)

The French performance artist Orlan made “News of the Weird” in 1993 when she underwent surgery in a New York City art gallery as part of a multiple-surgery transformation of her face according to five icons of Renaissance and post-Renaissance beauty (at that time, implanting small horns to simulate the bumpy forehead of Mona Lisa). During a Chicago show in December 1998, Orlan raised money for further operations by selling posters and videos of her surgeries and digitally enhanced portraits of her face incorporating features that ancient Mayans had found attractive but which are ugly in this society (huge noses, crossed-eyes). She also sold souvenir tubes of her liposuctioned fat.

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at
www.newsoftheweird.blogspot.com
(or www.newsoftheweird.com).

Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com.
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Chronique

ELEMENTS
OF STYLE

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THE CHRONICLE

chronique

A TO ZINE WORKSHOP Meet editors, writers, and designers in an effort to produce a feature for *Austin Monthly* magazine. Open to kids between the ages of 10 and 15. E-mail to register. 4pm. *Austin Bat Cave*, 1807 W. 11th. Free. cbirkelbach@austinbatcave.org. www.austinbatcave.org.

COLORADO RIVER FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE Call to register and learn what you can do to help preserve and protect Lady Bird Lake, Lake Austin, and other Colorado River offshoots. 6pm. *Redbud Center*, Rm. 225, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., 498-1587. Free. www.coloradoriver.org.

TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION INFORMATION SESSION Learn what UT has to offer those who want to earn a master's degree in science and create new ventures, products, and services. 6:30pm. *IC² Institute*, 2815 San Gabriel, 475-8900. Free. www.ic2.utexas.edu/mstc.

HAITI RELIEF AT DELL DIAMOND Pastor Charité Noel – pastor of the Free Methodist Church in Dessalines, Haiti – talks about the current state of Haiti. A live auction takes place at 8pm. 6:30pm. *The United Heritage Center at Dell Diamond*, 3400 E. Palm Valley, Round Rock, 512/826-1508. \$50.

FLAMING IDIOTS GONE WILDE Set the night on fire with all your flamin' friends at Zach's LGBT preshow party. 6:45pm. *Zach Theatre*, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. www.zachtheatre.org/show/flaming-idiots.

PHILIP GOUREVITCH ON ABU GHRAIB *The New Yorker* staff writer and author of *Standard Operating Procedure* discusses the Abu Ghraib prison scandal. 7pm. *UT campus, Joynes Reading Room*, 2501 Whitis, 471-5787. Free. mvalentine@mail.utexas.edu. www.utexas.edu/cola/progs/plan2/events/13796.

'THE FUTURE OF FOOD' DOCUMENTARY SCREENING Learn about the relationship between agriculture, big business, and government. Spoiler: It's not going to be pretty. 7:30pm. *MonkeyWrench Books*, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free. www.monkeywrenchbooks.org.

GENEALOGY AFTER HOURS This month's meeting of the Williamson County Genealogical Society discusses wagon train life on the California trail in 1852. 7:30pm. *Round Rock Public Library*, 216 E. Main St., Round Rock, 512/218-7000. Free. www.rootsweb.ancestry.com.

ONENESS BLESSING Anyone need a shift in consciousness without all those cutilike trappings? The Oneness people have you covered. *Thursdays*, 7:30pm. *Casa de Luz*, 1701 Toomey, 476-2535. *Donations welcome*. www.onenessmovementaustin.com.

BRAZILIAN CARNAVAL PARTY The Brazilian Studies Students Association will be raising funds with the help of Acadêmicos da Ópera, Capoeira Evolução, art performances, a movie screening, and DJs spinning samba, funk, and reggaeton. 9pm-2am. *Aces Lounge*, 222 E. Sixth, 713/204-5037. \$10 (\$8, advance). brazilianists@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=254525563099&ref=mf.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN FAMILY SUPPORT CONFERENCE The majority of this conference aims to help parents and health professionals utilize the health care tools around them. However, there is a youth panel and other events for the whole family. Go online to register and for a complete list of keynotes, workshops, and exhibits. *Thu-Fri., Feb. 11-12*. *Hyatt Regency Austin*, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 477-1234. Free. www.ctaafsc.org.

BABY GIRL = FOODIES + LISA MARSHALL The recipe: Lisa Marshall's scorching vocals, a jug of BYO-hooch, and thou. Could life possibly get any sweeter? Now with new and improved 9pm start

THURSDAY, FEB. 11 TO THURSDAY, FEB. 18

calendar

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/COMMUNITY

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

time. And as Baby Girl herself always says, "Free homemade food!" 9pm. *T.C.'s Lounge*, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200. www.lisamarshallmusic.com.

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
D Berman Gallery

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

(See Film Listings.)

Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2010 @ Alamo Ritz, 9:40pm
The Future of Food @ MonkeyWrench Books, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Hector Ward & the Big Time Saxon Pub
Retribution Gospel Choir Stubb's

FRIDAY **12**

ONE DAY CREATIVE CAMP Learn about the indigenous people of the Southwest and Mexico in this workshop through visual arts, an American Indian flute performance, and a nature walk. 9am-5pm. *Mexican American Cultural Center*, 600 River St., 478-6222. \$25. www.maccaustin.org.

LOVE/HAITI BENEFIT Live music, poetry, a silent auction, and a bake sale all make helping Haiti that much easier. The proceeds go to World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization helping children and families in Haiti. 7pm. *Gallery 5619*, 5619 Airport. \$5 donation appreciated. www.mosaicaustin.org.

DANCE DANCE REVOLUTION TOURNAMENT Before *Guitar Hero* and *Rock Band*, there was *DDR*. Kids between the ages of 8 and 17 are invited to show off their dance chops and see if they qualify for the finals in May. 2pm. *Oak Hill Branch Library*, 5125 Convict Hill, 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

DRINKS FOR LOVE-A-BULL Order one of the specially concocted drinks and the money helps to find pit bulls caring homes and educate the public about this misunderstood breed. 5pm-12mid. *Nomad*, 1213 Corona, 906-9458. www.love-a-bull.org.

FOOD & WINE PARTY Food samples made by the pros are a perfect foil for the wine samples you'll be trying. Gourmet coffee, salsa, desserts, and other palate-pleasers will also be available. 5-8pm. *Market at Steiner Ranch*, 4300 N. Quinlan Park Rd., 266-8808. Free. www.themarket-steiner.com.

★ **RECOMMENDED**
★ **YOUNG ONES**
★ **GAY PLACES**

★ **SMOKING BANANA** Quick! Click the Official Spam of the Austin Outpost of the Guerrilla Queer Bar to learn the location of – and more importantly, what to wear to – this month's invasion. Now, with 100% more Facebook. *Second Fridays*, 6pm. www.smokingbanana.com.

DOWNTOWN GHOST TOURS offer nooks-and-cranies walking tours that spotlight the dead to bring Austin's history and geography to life. *Fri-Sat., 8pm*. 853-9826. www.austinhghosttours.com.

★ **MIDWIVES FOR HAITI BENEFIT** In collaboration with Midwives for Haiti, local midwives will be traveling to the still-struggling nation to provide care and supplies. Help them help Haiti by enjoying live music, drinks, and dessert as you bid on one of the many auction items. 8-10pm. *Soma Vida*, 1210 Rosewood, 809-4944. *Donations appreciated*. drlasser@gmail.com.

★ **PLEASURE FEST** "Dudley" and "Bob" are not two names that we usually associate with pleasure, but they've made sure to slap their names all over this thing. Don't let that stop you from diggin' all that fancy burlesque. 8pm. *Aces Lounge*, 222 E. Sixth, 477-2237. \$10. www.klbjfm.com/Promos/PleasureFest.aspx.

★ **GRIOT SOUL** Spoken word, live music from Makalani Movement, and an open mic, if you're so

this week's
community
listings

inclined. Proceeds benefit Project Abundant Life's youth programs. 8:30pm-1am. *Orun Center of Cultural Arts*, 1401-B Cedar, 731-4584. \$5 donation. www.projectabundantlife.org.

★ **KINGS N THINGS <3 U X 2 KNT** plays Cupid "Double the Love." So go twice already. The Dame Havemeyer hostesses. 9pm. *United States Art Authority*, 2906 Fruth. \$8, advance. www.doublethelove.eventbrite.com.

★ **AFRICAN-AMERICAN FAMILY SUPPORT CONFERENCE** (See Thursday, 2/11.)

DANCE (See Arts Listings.)

Ballet Austin: Truth & Beauty/The Bach Project Long Center for the Performing Arts

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Love Bites: The Power Ballad Sing-Along @ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Cause for Applause/The Gospel Truth LP Release Emo's
Yo! MSG Raps Club de Ville
Anita Baker Austin Music Hall
Soft Healer Club 1808
AI Di Meola One World Theatre

BY KATE X MESSER

gayplace

I HAVE NO PLANS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY AND NEITHER DOES JAMES RENOVITCH I also don't have a **Rainer Maria Rilke** tattoo.

But **Lady Gaga** does. It reads: "In the deepest hour of the night, confess to yourself that you would die if you were forbidden to write. And look deep into your heart where it spreads its roots, the answer, and ask yourself, must I write?" That's all well and good, and as much of a career "creative class"-type as I consider myself to be, I must admit, there are some deep hours of the night when I could swaddle my writing avocation in a sad little blanket and leave it in a

Send gay bits to
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basket on the doorstep of some young enthusiast who could make better use of it. Some days it feels like I could turn and walk away and never look back. Closer to home, my favorite Rilke quote is: "For one human being to love another: that is perhaps the most difficult of all our tasks, the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation." In the rosy haze of the days leading up to this Sunday's **Feast of St. Valentine**, these are fine words to mull. Every Valentine's Day I spend alone is an opportunity to prepare – a nest feathering, if you will – for that last test and proof.



| L - R: VALENTINE'S DAY LISTINGS (SEE P.67) | UT SOFTBALL (SPORTS, P.71) | ED LINDLOF (ARTS, P.72) | THE WOLFGAN (FILM, P.78) | RJD2 (MUSIC, P.86)

SATURDAY 13

MONTHLY BIRD COUNT Because you have more fingers than birds do, and counting themselves is out of the question. 7am & 4pm. Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory, 2210 FM 973 S., 300-2473. Free. ecarpe@gmail.com, www.travisaudubon.org.

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET features fresh organic produce, meats, and cheeses straight from surrounding Texas farms, plus live music every week. Soon to move to the shady environs of the park from the lot next to it. Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free.

www.austinfarmersmarket.org.

GROWING YOUR OWN POTATOES Learn how with the Travis County Master Gardeners Association's hands-on demonstrations. 9am. Texas AgriLife Extension, 1600-B Smith, 854-9600. Free. www.tcmastergardeners.org.

SUNSET VALLEY FARMERS MARKET Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones Rd., 280-1976. Free. www.sunsetvalleyfarmersmarket.org.

AUSTIN RECOVERY: SECOND SATURDAY WORKSHOP Help heal the wounds of addiction and live life to the fullest. 10am. Austin Recovery, 8402 Cross Park Dr., 697-8500. Free. www.austinrecovery.org.

ENGINEERING SATURDAY Hands-on activities for the kids every week. The first 400 kids get in free. 10am-5pm. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$4.50-6.50. www.austinkids.org.

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION Food, dance, music, martial arts demos, and a lion dance all ring in the year of the golden tiger. Here's to hoping for 12 months of bravery and confidence. 10am-3pm. Asian American Cultural Center, 11713 Jollyville, 336-5069. Free. www.asianamericancnc.org.

78704 ARTISAN MARKET has art and gifts hand-crafted by local artisans. Saturdays & Sundays, 11am-6pm. Corner of South Congress & Gibson, 914-3403. www.weare78704.com.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH with Wanagri's Trees of Peace, the true story of Wanagri Maathai, environmentalist and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, who decided that she needed to plant trees in her native Kenya before the country's forests are destroyed. Each family will take home a tree sapling to plant in their own yard. 11am. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

TREE PLANTING CEREMONY in honor of longtime library assistant Sandy Sturgeon. A reception follows. 11am. Windsor Park Library, 5833 Westminster, 974-9840. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

ROCK N' ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVE Spend Valentine's Day using your heart for another reason: donating blood. KLBj will be offering prizes for some of the donors, so come dressed to bleed. Donate at the event headquarters at Sherlock's Baker St. Pub & Grill (9012 Research Ste. C-1) or any area community blood center: 4300 N. Lamar; 2132 N. Mays #900, Round Rock; 920 N. Vista Ridge, Cedar Park. Noon-4pm. 206-1266. www.inyourhands.org.

SECOND SATURDAYS FOR FAMILIES Bring the kids, and give those creative muscles a workout. Noon-4pm. Austin Museum of Art – Downtown, 823 Congress, 495-9224. \$7 per family. www.amoa.org.

SWEET BARKS FUNDRAISER Dedicated to making Austin a no-kill city, Austin Pets Alive! offers a day for those whose love is directed toward those of the four-legged persuasion. Live music, food, drinks, vendors, a photo booth, a dog-kissing booth, and more keep you occupied while you await the results of the raffle. Noon-4pm. Austin Pets Alive, corner of South Congress & Gibson. www.austinpetsalive.org.

CELEBRATE NIGERIA with the music, art, food, dance, and history of that nation. Activities for kids and adults will be provided as one of the world's unique cultures is explored. 1-4pm. George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 974-3671.

Valentine's LISTINGS

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE DINNER & CONCERT Dinner, dessert, drinks, and the romantic sounds of the Round Rock Symphony under the watchful eye of music director Silas Huff. Sat., Feb. 13, 6:30pm. Arbor Pointe Event Centre, 655 E. Palm Valley, Round Rock, 512/264-5368. \$75. www.roundrocksymphony.org.

AMORE VALENTINE WINE DINNER Nosh on fine foods paired with hand-selected wines. The proceeds go to the PAWS Shelter & Humane Society. Mon., Feb. 15, 7pm. Original David's Brick Oven, 1608 W. 35th, 894-0219. \$100-125. www.pawsshelter.org.

APHRODISIACS ON THE TABLE Learn to serve up a meal that will have your partner begging for more. Sat., Feb. 13, 9am-noon. The Natural Epicurean Academy of Culinary Arts, 1701 Toomey, 476-2276. \$55 (\$99, couple). www.naturalepicurean.com.

ARARAT STYLE VALENTINE Ararat supplies the food but you supply the alcoholic drinks. Courtyard fires, hookahs, intuitive readings, belly dancing, you, and a loved one. Sun., Feb. 14, 4-9pm. Hot Mama's Espresso Bar, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-6262. www.hotmamasaustin.com.

BECKER VINEYARDS Stop in for some complementary chocolates, nuts, and Merlot on Saturday or Sunday. Feeling a bit more generous? Shell out a bit of cash for the Valentine luncheon (11am, \$65) or dinner (5pm, \$85). Sat.-Sun., Feb. 13-14. Becker Vineyards, 464 Becker Farms Rd., Stonewall, 830/644-2681. www.beckervineyards.com.

BLACK, WHITE & RED Express love with your bodies at this multigenre dance party. Country & western, swing, tango, and salsa will be the forbidden dances tonight. Sat., Feb. 13, 8:30pm-12mid. Go Dance, 2525 W. Anderson, 339-9391. \$10. www.godancestudio.com.

BLANTON VALENTINES Choose from a selection of unique cards and gifts, and get your valentine personalized by one of the guest calligraphers for free. Your significant other won't think you did it, but at least your effort shows. Thu.-Sat., Feb. 11-13, noon-2pm. The Blanton Museum of Art, MLK & Congress, 471-7324. Free. www.blantonmuseum.org/works_of_art/exhibitions/desire/valentine.cfm.

BOLEROS BRUNCH Mexican food might not be the most romantic meal, but with Leticia Rodriguez singing traditional Spanish tunes of love and life Sun., Feb. 14, 11:30am-2:30pm. Manuel's, 310 Congress, 472-7555. www.manuels.com.

CIGARS, PORT, & CHOCOLATE Two glasses of port, two cigars, and a bit of gourmet chocolate all paired by the pros. Cigars before and cigarettes after, if you know what we mean. Sun., Feb. 14, 7pm. Fumeecigar Lounge, 2403 S. Bell Blvd., Cedar Park, 512/291-3863. \$45 (\$40, advance). www.fumeecigars.com.

DARK STALKERS HAUNTED HOUSE What's an evening together if you don't have to sign a waiver beforehand? Austin's Halloween headquarters, the House of Torment, has decided to expand to other holidays (watch out, Arbor Day). Your evening will be full of atmosphere – if nothing else – as your group stumbles around the 20,000-square-foot, baddie-infested compound with only a single glow stick to light the way. Each night has a musical theme, and Sunday's is love songs. How romantic. Fri.-Sun., Feb. 12-14, 7pm-12mid. House of Torment,

523 Highland Mall Blvd. \$20 (\$14, advance). www.houseoftorment.com.

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN Trish Taylor leads a colloquy on the topic of loving. Not sure what a colloquy is? Rest assured there will be readings, discussion, and even musical interludes. Sun., Feb. 14, 10am. 5555 N. Lamar Ste. L-137, 835-9008. Free. www.esoa.org.

FOR THE LOVE OF ART is a well-timed visual arts exhibition with love as the central theme. Go online for gallery hours. Feb. 8-27. Austin Artspace, 7739 Northcross. www.austinartspace.com.

GAG REFLEX VALENTINE'S SHOWS The Gag Reflex troupe of sketch comics (think: vintage SNL with a local flavor) presents a showcase of its most popular bits exploring love, lust, sex, and obsession on the downstairs stage. Sun., Feb. 14, 5 & 7pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 731-3945. \$15. www.sockmonkeymedia.com.

HAVE A H'ART You can look at, become, buy, and make art at this South Congress studio. Get a portrait taken, make a valentine, or buy something for that special someone. Cost is on a sliding scale. Sun., Feb. 14, 11am-3pm. Stensrud Studio, 1601 Eva, 694-9207. www.stensrudstudio.com.

HEART TO HEART GALA David Stevens and the Morris Nelms Quartet (featuring Alex Coke) perform the greatest love songs while you and yours enjoy food, desserts, and Champagne. The love goes even further than that, as proceeds from the live auction go to create freshwater wells in Malawi. Sat., Feb. 13, 2 & 7pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196. \$40; \$35, advance; \$25, matinee. www.warmheartinternational.org.

KINGS N THINGS <3 U X 2 Our local drag king troupe plays Cupid with "Double the Love." So go twice already. Our recent cover girl Rebecca Havemeyer hostesses. Fri.-Sat., Feb. 12-13, 9pm. United States Art Authority, 2906 Fruth. \$10. www.doublethelove.eventbrite.com.

LITTLE STOLEN MOMENTS and Stanley Roy present an evening full of all the things necessary for romance: dance performances, ukulele serenades, and a sweaty dance party into the night. You will think you've scored before you even get home. Sun., Feb. 14, 9pm. The Ghost Room, 304 W. Fourth, 879-4472. \$5.

LOVE IS A FUNNY THING Come alone or with your loved one for Valentine's Day-fueled improv in the upstairs theatre. Flowers, chocolate, and thoroughly lampooned cupid included with admission. Sun., Feb. 14, 8pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$20. www.hideouttheatre.com.

LOVE STRUCK ON SIXTH STREET Esther's Follies has enough skits, sketches, parodies, and ripped-from-the-headlines hilarity to tear you a new laugh hole. And let's not forget the master of illusion Ray Anderson levitating in front of your very eyes. Isn't it time you fell in love with Sixth Street all over again? Thu.-Sat., Feb. 11-13, 8 & 10pm (no 10pm show on Thursday). Esther's Follies, 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. \$20 (\$25, reserved seats). www.esterfollies.com.

MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE Call to make your reservation for this three-course meal and love-tinged thriller. Sat., Feb. 13, 7:30pm. Dave and Buster's, 9333 Research Ste. A-600, 346-8015. \$50.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT Need a place to drop off the kids while you try to rekindle what's left of the romance those same kids have destroyed? The kids enjoy pizza, games, and a sing-along screening of *Annie*. You enjoy peace of mind. Sun., Feb. 14, 6-9:30pm. Center Stage Texas, 2826 Real St., 391-1800. \$12 (\$20, under the age of 12). Early drop-off and late pickup available for \$5 more. www.centerstagetexas.com.

PARTNER YOGA & MASSAGE Two people, one yoga mat, and 2½ hours of learning the basics of Thai yoga massage. Now that's a Valentine's afternoon. Sun., Feb. 14, 1-3:30pm. Sacred Streams Yoga, 2013-A W. Anderson, 600-4716. \$60 per couple. www.sacredstreamsyoga.com.

PARTNER YOGA WORKSHOP Sometimes it takes two to yoga. Mark and Gloria Uridel share their knowledge of partner yoga, conscious communication, and Thai massage, making for a Valentine's gift that keeps on giving. Sun., Feb. 14, 10am. Clear Springs Yoga, 605 Copeland, 656-0490. \$50. www.healingartsstudios.com.

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE: VALENTINE SALSA DANCE FAMILY PARTY It's a salsa dance party in the tradition of the old-fashioned family get-togethers of Puerto Rico. Please bring a main dish, finger food, or dessert to share at this (non-alcoholic) family-friendly event. No partner needed! Sat., Feb. 13, 7-10pm. Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center, 701 Tillery, 251-8122. Free. dance@prfdance.org. www.prfdance.org.

SINGING VALENTINES Want to serenade your love but don't have the vocal skills? The Austin Chord Rangers can help by sending a quartet to that special someone. Two love songs, a rose, and a card later, you will be well on your way to a successful Valentine's Day. Fri.-Sun., Feb. 12-14, 8am-6pm. 477-7664. \$49 and up. www.chordrangers.org.

SWEETHEART SHOWCASE BURLESQUE An entourage of undulating artists bring their shimmying skills to the HighBall for your eyeballing pleasure. You might want to check with your better half before filing this one under "romantic." Sat., Feb. 13, 10:30pm. The HighBall, 1120 S. Lamar, 383-8309. \$15. www.thehighball.com.

VALENTINE'S CRUISE SHIP CRIME The Capital City Mystery Players take their whodunit to the seas while you nosh on fine Italian fare. Try not to expel any pasta from your nose as the performers crack you up. Sat. & Sun., Feb. 13 & 14, 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$129, couple.

VALENTINE'S DAY BLOOD DRIVE Local high school students have organized this blood drive, but, rest assured, the professionals will do the actual blood-taking. Live music and refreshments will also be provided with the proceeds going to Haiti relief. Sun., Feb. 14, 1-5pm. Elks Lodge, 700 Dawson, 442-8535.

VALENTINE'S PARTY DE SADE Get the leash and collar ready, and put a little bit of pain in your day of love. The restaurant staff will be dressed to repress, and you should be, too. Live music from Mistress Stephanie & Her Melodic Cat and the Carrots helps you get in the mood. Sun., Feb. 14, 10pm-2am. Justine's, 4710 E. Fifth, 385-2900. www.justines1937.com.



daytrips

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Saint Arnold Brewing Co.'s new cavernous tasting room harkens back to the days of big German beer halls where families gathered to talk and laugh and enjoy fresh beer. The dust has just

about settled as Texas' oldest microbrewery completes its move into a 96-year-old red-brick building on the northern edge of downtown Houston, and fans are lining up at the door for a look at the new facility.

"The tastings have taken on a life of their own," says Brock Wagner, founder of the brewery. For an hour on weekday afternoons and three hours on Saturdays, the brewmaster opens the taps on half a dozen kinds of beers. Patrons pay \$7 for a 9-ounce glass and four bottle

caps that they can exchange for samples. For beer lovers, the samplings are the pinnacle of the drinking experience. After all, freshness is one of the most important aspects of good beer. (And there is a Saint Arnold root beer for the designated drivers.)

"It's become an event," Wagner says. Some days, especially on Saturdays, the basketball-court-sized room fills to capacity. Some groups bring picnic baskets and games, or they'll just practice the art of conversation. The weekday afternoon open houses are the least crowded.

Founded by Wagner and Kevin Bartol and named for the patron saint of brewers, the company's first location was a warehouse that looked more like a garage than a brewery. Since the first keg rolled out June 9, 1994, the Saint Arnold Army has been gaining recruits.

"There isn't any magic bullet for success," Wagner says. "We've just stayed focused on making great beer – the kind of beer that we like to drink."

The first few years, the Saturday afternoon tours were often led by one of the founders. The open house attracted a dozen or so people who shared a passion for the brewing process. By the time the company moved last summer, the tours had grown to hundreds of thirsty beer drinkers wanting a peek into the birthplace of their favorite brew. "And we only had two restrooms for all those people," Wagner says.

The new location not only increases the number of potties but nearly quadruples the amount of brewing capacity. The former Houston Independent School District food distribution warehouse was gutted down to the brick and mortar. A new brewhouse was built to contain the 30-foot-tall stainless steel fermenting tanks, and a complete set of refurbished brew-making equipment from a Bavarian Cistercian monastery has been ordered from Germany. Last year, the brewery produced 26,000 barrels of beer. "My goal is to make around 50,000 barrels a year," Wagner says. "Then I'll be happy."

Saint Arnold Brewing Co. is located at 2000 Lyons Ave. in Houston. Tours will restart this spring; until then, the tasting room is open weekdays from 3 to 4pm. On Saturdays, the doors open at 11am and the taps are turned off at 2pm. For more information, go to www.saintarnold.com.

971st in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

outoftown

WHERE THE CHEFS EAT CULINARY TOURS unveil some of the neighborhood dining spots that locals have known about for years. Tours are led by celebrity chefs and food writers. Tours are limited to 16 people and include transportation, Saint Arnold beer, gift bag, and tastings. Reservations required. *Sundays, May 2, June 6, June 27, July 25, Oct. 10, Oct. 17. Houston, 713/527-4454. \$180. www.houstonculinarytours.com.*

HUG-IN & VALENTINE BALL gets "Back to the Basics of Love" with lots of boot-scootin' music in the old dance hall, plus picking and grinning under the trees. *Fri.-Sat., Feb. 12-13. Luckenbach, 830/997-3224. \$35 both days, \$17 for ball. www.luckenbachtexas.com.*

MARDI GRAS RIVER PARADE features a procession of river barges loaded with revelers throwing beads San Antonio style. *Sat., Feb. 13, 4-6pm. River Walk, San Antonio, 210/212-7602. www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com.*

FAMILY CAMPING WORKSHOPS teach the basics of outdoor crafts like building a fire, putting up a tent,

and cooking a meal, as well as kayaking, fishing, and geocaching. Area workshops will also be held at Blanco, March 6-7; Lake Somerville, April 10-11; Inks Lake, April 17-18; Enchanted Rock, May 8-9; Colorado Bend, May 15-16; McKinney Falls, May 22-23; and Palmetto, May 29-30. Reservations required. *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 13-14. Bastrop State Park, 512/389-8903. \$55 for up to six people. www.tpwd.state.tx.us.*

LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL celebrates the Year of the Tiger with dragon and lion dances, gourmet food, arts & crafts, cultural exhibits, and more. *Sat., Feb. 13, 10am-4pm. Chinese Community Center, 9800 Town Park, Houston, 713/271-6100 x122. Free. www.ccchouston.org.*

GENERAL TWIGGS SURRENDER REENACTMENT re-creates the capitulation of all military forts in Texas at the beginning of the Civil War, which spared the state the bloodshed that other Southern states suffered. *Sat., Feb. 13, 11am, 2pm. Alamo Plaza, San Antonio. www.6thtx.org.*

COMPASSION ART AUCTION What's sexier than a charitable spirit. Place a bid on one of the many pieces of art and maybe give it to that special someone for Valentine's. All of the proceeds go to Haiti relief. Cash donations are also accepted. *1-4pm. Studio2Gallery, 1700 S. Lamar #318, 326-9102. www.studio2gallery.com.*

CITY GLASS OPEN HOUSE Glass blowing and flame-working demos throughout the afternoon. *Noon-6pm. City Glass Studio, 1105 E. Sixth, 584-9323. Free. archangelglass@gmail.com.*

MASKED TABLEAU BALL The Krewe of Utopia's annual Mardi Gras fete has food, drinks, live music from Dr. Zog, and beads, beads, beads. Make your reservations online or risk a beadless pre-Lent. *Maggie Mae's, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541. \$200. warlordofutopia@yahoo.com, www.kreweofutopia.com.*

PAPIER-MÂCHÉ WORKSHOP Learn to use recycled materials to create usable art. This winter's theme is bowls. *Saturdays through Feb. 27, 2pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 478-6222. \$5 per class. www.maccaustin.org.*

HAVE A HEART 'GREY'LA Help give racing greyhounds happy retirements at this fundraiser for Greyhound Pets of America by enjoying drinks, desserts, live music from Wynn Taylor, and a silent auction. *6pm. Zilker Park Clubhouse, 200 Zilker Clubhouse Rd., 450-1460. \$25 (\$40, couple). www.gpacentraltexas.org/events/greyla10.html.*

ARTSTRÅDA FASHION SHOW Black Widow Burlesque dancers don corsets and other goth fashion and hit the runway with help from Secret Oktober and Timeless Trends. Dubnautica performs, and Tim Pipe shows off his art on his bus outside of the venue. *8-10pm. Elysium, 705 Red River, 478-2979. Free. www.artstradamagazine.com.*

LUCY THE POODLE'S BRITISH INVASION PARTY A hot lineup topped off by our most lovely, darling, squeezably delightful Girl in a Coma at midnight. *9pm. Red 7, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100. www.lucythepoodle.com.*

ALICE IN WONDERLAND You know the story, but your kids might not. Why not go down the rabbit hole with Alice and see what you discover in this production suitable for kids between the ages of 3 and 10. *Through March 28, Saturdays (10am) & Sundays (2pm). Austin Scottish Rite Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-5436. \$10 (\$8, children). www.srct.org.*

KINGS N THINGS <3 U X 2 (See Friday.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)

Austin Museum of Art – Downtown, Yard Dog

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Spirit of the Marathon @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 1, 4pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

RJD2 Emo's

Brit Invasion 2 Red 7

KRS-One The Scoot Inn

Nouvelle Vague Mohawk

SUNDAY 14

MEDITATION CLASSES *Sundays, 9:30-11am. Chittamani Buddhist Center, 1918 Bissel, 916-4444. \$10. www.meditationinaustin.org.*

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION Come and pray for peace and prosperity (10:30am), followed by a Chinese vegetarian lunch (noon), talent show, and lion dance (1pm), courtesy of the Hsiang Yun Temple. *360 Gallery, 6720 Capital of TX Hwy. Free. www.ihps-austin.org.*

HOPE FARMERS MARKET This weekly gathering is part farmers' market, part community meeting, and part arts exchange. Browse the local produce options while learning about local organizations, signing up for wellness opportunities, or participating in a free yoga class. *Sundays, 11am-3pm. Pine Street Station, 414 Waller, 699-6077. www.hopefarmersmarket.org.*

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM This week, Dr. Bruce J. Hunt, associate professor of history at UT, talks about Darwin and religion. *Sundays, 11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinnu.org.*

BUDDHIST CLASSES & MEDITATION Expand your heart, calm your mind, and soothe your wallet. Classes are open to the public. *Sundays, noon-2pm. Land of Compassion & Wisdom, 2601 Penny #230, 921-6901. Free (donations appreciated). www.austinfpm.com.*

ENGINEERING WEEK KICK-OFF UT students lead hands-on activities to help kick off National Engineers Week. *Noon-5pm. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$4.50-6.50. www.austinkids.org.*

BOOKGODESS BOOK GROUP We dream of a circle of women, but this ain't about us, honey. It's about you and your lit-loving self making your way to discuss books. This month: *Women's Rites, Women's Mysteries* by Ruth Barret. *Every second Sunday, 1pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. bookwoman@austin.rr.com, www.ebookwoman.com.*

SPANISH STORYTIME Listen to bilingual stories and expand your vocabulary in the process. *Second & fourth Sundays, 1pm. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free. www.wblibrary.org.*

FLYING THEATER MACHINE Parents and their 4- to 10-year-olds work together and add ingredients to the off-the-cuff recipe. Bring your suggestions to keep the improv coming. *Sundays, 2pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. \$5. www.flyingtheatremachine.com.*

PICKIN' PARTY FOR PEACE Instruments for Peace and the Austin Center for Peace and Justice invite the public to gather and enjoy music while brainstorming about spreading peace through Austin and the world. Plans will also be made for the Million Musicians March for Peace. *2pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473. richbowden@aol.com, www.instrumentsforpeace.org.*

ALMODOVAR'S WOMEN ON THE VERGE In honor of the Blanton's "DESIRE" exhibition, Austin Film Society presents *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*. *3pm. Blanton Museum Auditorium, intersection of Congress and MLK. \$5 (\$3, members). www.blantonmuseum.org.*

TEXAS OBSERVER RABBLE ROUSER ROUNDUP Schmooze with the writers, editors, and other bigwigs at the Texas Observer, while enjoying live music, food and snacks from local restaurants, and a silent auction. *4-8pm. Barr Mansion, 10463 Sprinkle Rd., 477-0746. \$50. www.texasobserver.org.*

BILINGUAL STORYTIME This six-week series of stories from the mind of Carmen Lomas Garza is presented in English and Spanish with songs, activities, and, of course, storytelling. *Wednesdays, 6pm; Sundays, 3 & 4pm. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$6.50 (free on Sundays). www.austinkids.org.*

PRISM: UT LGBT CATHOLICS Explore what it means to be Catholic and gay, or even gay-friendly. Nonjudgmental, safe, and accepting: 100% open-hearted fellowship. *6pm. University Catholic Center, 2010 University Ave., 476-7351. prism@longhorncatholic.org, www.utcatholic.org.*

LITTLE STOLEN VALENTINE'S Grab your sweetie and sneak away for some little stolen moments with Little Stolen Moments and Stanley Roy & His Vice on Valentine's Day. *8pm. The Ghost Room, 304 W. Fourth, 879-4472. \$5.*

MALEBOX See that male? He's got a box. Go stick something in it. A message: "Nice package!" "Come here often?" "Yr a Tool." Express yourself or XXXpress yourself. *Sundays, 8pm. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150.*

ROY ZIMMERMAN'S REAL AMERICAN combines biting political satire with his unique guitar stylings. No issue will be left unaddressed: War, poverty, ignorance, greed, lust, and fear are all fair game. *8pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. \$15 (\$12, members). www.royzimmerman.com/schedule.html*

ALICE IN WONDERLAND (See Saturday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) **Criminal Lovers** @ Alamo Ritz, 1pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **Screaming Females** Emo's **Lady Friends No. 5** Salvage Vanguard Theater

MONDAY 15

GARDEN OPEN HOUSE Bring the whole family and learn about organic gardening, from double-digging to seed-saving. *Mondays-Wednesdays, 9-11am. Ronda's Montessori Garden, 4300 Mount Vernon, 707-8635. Free. www.rondasgarden.net.*

LEGAL CLINIC Free legal advice from Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. *Most Mondays & Wednesdays, 6pm. Mondays: Martin Middle School, 1601 Haskell. Wednesdays: Webb Middle School, 601 E. St. Johns, 374-2700. Free. www.trla.org.*

KABBALAH PRIMER One lecture is all it takes to learn the basic tenets of Kabbalah. If it's good enough for Madonna and Ashton Kutcher, who are we to judge? *7pm. Austin Crowne Plaza, 6121 N. I-35, 888/898-8230. Free. www.kabbalah.com.*

★ **WILL SEXTON BENEFIT** Austin's big musical guns come out to support Will Sexton, whose medical bills are accumulating after a mild stroke. Artists include Roky Erickson, Patty Griffin, Eliza & Tony Gilkyson, and a host of others. See our Club Listings, p.86, for a complete lineup. *7pm-2am. Antone's, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424. \$30 (\$25, advance).*

AUSTIN TRAVEL CIRCLE MEETING *First and third Mondays, 7pm. Hostelling International - Austin, 2200 S. Lakeshore, 444-2294. Free. www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austintravelcircle.*

PRESIDENTS DAY If you're thinking of doing anything other than appreciating commanders-in-chief today, you should know that city offices and public libraries are closed.

✶ **SEX EDUCATION FOR PRETEENS** Representatives from Faith Presbyterian and Planned Parenthood offer weekly sessions to help kids understand the tricky science and emotions of sexuality. Parental permission will need to be obtained, and parents are encouraged to attend the first session to get a feel for the classes. *Mondays through April 19. Faith Presbyterian Church, 1314 E. Oltorf, 444-1314. Free. www.faithpresaustrin.org.*

✶ **VALKYRIES HAVE THAT SPECIAL TOUCH** Austin's women reps in the Texas Rugby Union are calling for newbs. Training with the brand-new head coach begins in a few weeks. See website for details. *Monday and Wednesday practices, 7-9pm. Burnet Middle School, 8401 Hathaway, 841-8289. recruiting@austinvalkyries.com, www.austinvalkyries.com.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Soul Power @ Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm
Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2010 @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Will Sexton Benefit Antone's

TUESDAY 16

BARSTOW SPEAKERS SERIES Robert Glennon discusses his latest book, *Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and What to Do About It*. Call or go online to register. *11:30am. Four Seasons Hotel, 98 San Jacinto, 498-1587. \$35 (\$15, students). www.coloradoriver.org.*

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SEMINAR Call to register and get the information you need to care for someone suffering from Alzheimer's or related dementia. *4pm. Alzheimer's Association office, 3429 Executive Center Dr. #100, 241-0420. Free. www.txalz.org.*

MARDI GRAS STOMP Follow the Krewe of Who Dat as it starts the party with live music and free beads at Blu before continuing to Speakeasy for, you guessed it, more partying. *4-10pm. Blu, 360 Nueces, 904-5666. Free. www.bluaustin.com.*

CARNAVAL FOR A CAUSE Appetizers, drink specials, live music, door prizes, and more will have you dancing and partying the night away for a local cause: the Rainforest Partnership. Costumes welcome. *5:30-9pm. Copa Bar & Grill, 217 Congress, 420-0101. \$20 suggested donation. www.rainforestpartnership.org.*



SESAME STREET LIVE (SEE THURSDAY, 2/18)

✶ **LISTEN TO OUTCAST!** KOOP = queer! Tweak your knobs (or Heath and Stephen's): 91.7FM. It's *OutCast*, for and about the Central Texas LGBT population. You might even hear a Gay Placer on the air now and again ... or every week. *Tuesdays, 6-7pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org, www.outcastaustin.com.*

NEY HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PLANNING MEETING Help vet the plans proposed by the city and Hyde Park community members to amend the period of historic significance. You might want to check the website and brush up on the proposals before showing up. *6pm. Parks and Recreation Department board room, 200 S. Lamar. www.cityofaustin.org/parks/elisabetnecippproject.htm.*

✶ **NO FLAGS ON THIS PLAY** For Horns that share that special orientation toward the sporting life, the Federation of Lesbian, Ally, and Gay Sports (FLAGS) meets every week on campus. Dress to play. *Tuesdays, 6pm. Student Services Building, 100 W. Dean Keeton. www.utflags.webs.com.*

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ACCOUNTANTS MEETING Schmooze, hobnob, and network with other ladies of the numbers. *6pm. Sicola's: A Culinary Experience, 5416 Parkcrest, 328-1636. \$21-35. www.aswaaustin.org.*

✶ **FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT** This month's movie is the critically acclaimed *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*. *6:30pm. Pleasant Hill Branch Library, 211 E. William Cannon, 974-3940. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

HILL COUNTRY NUDISTS welcome all to this monthly (clothed) introduction to the nudie lifestyle. *Third Tuesdays, 7pm. Mr. Natural, 2414-A S. Lamar, 916-9223. www.hillcountrynudists.com.*

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEETING Dr. Patricia Richardson of UT's Department of Integrative Biology discusses the biological complexity in the very soil beneath our feet. *7pm. Wild Basin Wilderness meeting room, 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 472-1062. Free. www.npsot.org/austin.*

WORLD TRAVEL 101 Learn to travel far and wide and cheap courtesy of Hostelling International. *7pm. REI, 601 N. Lamar, 444-2294. Free. www.hiaustin.org.*

★ **EARLY VOTING BEGINS** Voting early does not reward you with more voting opportunities, but it will go a lot quicker. Not sure who to vote for? Trust us and our endorsements (p.8). Want to be informed but don't want to leave the house? See our News feature, "Primary Intelligence," p.26, or you can keep up with all the latest election news at austinchronicle.com/elections. www.co.travis.tx.us/county_clerk/election.

✶ **KARAOKE WITH MARGARET** Margaret's one damn fine KJ. North Austin's fave neighborhood gay bar may not offer cash to the best crooners (like some other bars), but someone might offer you \$\$ to stop singing. *Tuesdays, 9pm. 'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339. www.bouttimeaustin.com.*



DANCE DANCE REVOLUTION TOURNAMENT (SEE FRIDAY)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Crawlspace @ Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm

Three Monkeys @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Mike Doughty Cactus Cafe

WEDNESDAY 17

★ **BILINGUAL BEGINNERS COMPUTER**

LAB Learn the basics of computing, including surfing the Internet, setting up an e-mail account, and using Word to help you create a résumé. No sign-up is necessary. *Wednesdays, 10am-noon. Terrazas Branch Library, 1105 E. Cesar Chavez, 974-3625. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

A NEIGHBORLY CONVERSATION features the Democratic candidates for Travis County Commissioner Precinct 4 - Margaret Gómez and Raul Alvarez - discussing the issues head-to-head. *Noon. KOOP 91.7FM. www.koop.org.*

QUÉ ME CUENTAS Brush up on your Spanish through discussion and reading. Forty percent proficiency is preferred, but the group will help you get there if need be. *Wednesdays, 6pm. Faulk Central Library, 800 Guadalupe, 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE WINE TASTING This Waterloo Ice House location is celebrating its third anniversary by offering up wine samples and appetizers. In Austin, free food and drinks equal party. *6-8pm. Waterloo Ice House, 14900 Avery Ranch Blvd., 422-4042. Free. waterloovaryranch@austin.rr.com.*

STATE OF THE CITY DINNER The League of Women Voters brings Mayor Lee Leffingwell to the microphone to talk about Austin's current problems and plans. Or, you can just come for the food, raffle, and auction. RSVP must be made via PayPal (lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org) by Feb. 15. *6:30pm. UT Club, Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, sixth floor, 2108 E. Robert Dedman. \$52 (\$47, members). www.lwvaustin.org.*

✶ **QUIZZNESS** Join Quizmaster Lois and the gang for another rousing round of memorized minutiae and some damn fine south of the border (and river) grub. *Every third Wednesday of the month, 7pm. Nueva Onda, 2218 College Ave., 447-5063. www.nuevaaustin.com.*

✶ **ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN** The Mercury shall rise (and raise dough for AIDS Services of Austin). Preshow dinner at Cannoli Joe's with a 15% discount if you stomp your feet and yell "We will, we will *rawk* you!" *8pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 457-5100. \$24-54. thelongcenter.frontgatesolutions.com.*

✶ **'BOUT TIME FOR VOLLEYBALL!** Team play on Wednesday and Sunday nights, and pickup games every day. *'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339. www.bouttimeaustin.com.*

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL ALEGRÍA has all of the requisite aerialists, acrobats, trampolines, and vaguely European styling you've come to expect from this circus. *Wed.-Sun., Feb. 17-21. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/600-5000. 800/745-3000. www.cirquedusoleil.com/alegría.*

✶ **DRAG BINGO** Saffire T. Stone presents all the plumage and pageantry of chicken shit bingo, but without the, you know. *Every other Wednesday. Jo's Coffee, 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800.*

✶ **BILINGUAL STORYTIME** (See Sunday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Art & Copy @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

Buena Vista Social Club @ Ruiz Library, 6:30pm

Bugambilia @ Mexican American Cultural Center, 8pm

Terminal Island @ Alamo Ritz, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Mike Doughty Cactus Cafe

The Dicks Red 7

D-Madness The Parish

THURSDAY 18

MADCAKES' FIFTH BIRTHDAY This family-owned and operated sweet spot will be offering free cupcakes as a way of saying thank you for five years of support. *3-6pm. madCakes, 3808 Spicewood Springs Rd. #102, 795-9285. www.madcakes.com.*

ENERGY STORAGE & BATTERY TECHNOLOGY The Austin Clean Energy Group hosts four professionals and professors discussing the state and future of battery technology and how it can be implemented to make Austin greener. *5pm. AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, 1900 University Ave. Free. www.meetup.com/ACEGroup.*

BLACK HISTORY CONCERT FOR HAITI The young and charitable souls of Brooke Elementary have decided to ask for donations at their upcoming concert to donate to the Red Cross. In true grade-school fashion, bake sale proceeds will also go to charity. *5:30pm. Brooke Elementary School, 3100 E. Fourth. Donations appreciated.*

CRITICAL ISSUES COMMUNITY FORUM The National Forum for Black Public Administrators invites city leaders to discuss the big issues such as health care, education, the digital divide, and more. Panelists include Art Acevedo, Dawnna Dukes, Marc Ott, and others. *6pm. King-Seabrook Chapel at Huston-Tillotson College, 900 Chicon, 626-8404.*

MAMMO MIXERS Manicures, refreshments, and, oh yeah, mammograms. Call to RSVP. *6pm. The Breast Center at St. David's Medical Center, 919 E. 32nd #111, 544-8803. www.stdavids.com.*

★ **BICYCLE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING** This monthly public meeting gathers to set priorities and advise city staff on bicycling issues. 6:30pm. One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd., 203-7626. www.austineconetwork.com.

DEALING WITH ALZHEIMER'S SEMINAR The local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and Arden Courts Alzheimer's Assisted Living host this discussion on compassionate strategies for dealing with the disease. Call to reserve your spot. 6:30pm. Arden Courts, 11630 Four Iron Dr., 918-2800. Free. www.alz.org/texascapital.

MAD MADAMEZ MEETING Female-identified people are invited to screen the feminist horror flick *Teeth*. 7pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free. www.monkeywrenchbooks.org.

★ **RESULTS BENEFIT** Julie Bolz talks about her experiences building schools in Afghanistan in an effort to raise funds for Results, a group working to end poverty around the world. Jim Hightower adds some star power to the bill. 7pm. Schmidt-Jones Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca, 638-0557. Donations appreciated. elaineaustin22@gmail.com.

YOUNG REPUBLICANS CANDIDATE ROUND TABLE Republican federal and state House candidates speak their minds and answer questions. 7pm. Texas Embassy, 709 E. Sixth, 443-4252. www.austinyr.com.

ACTIVIST SCHOLARSHIP CONFERENCE Abriendo Brecha brings together artists, community organizer, scholars, and others to UT where they give a sort of state of social justice in the Americas address. Go online for a list of keynotes, panels, and discussions. Thu.-Sat., Feb. 18-20. Texas Union, UT campus, 24th & Guadalupe, 232-8586. Free. erictang@mail.utexas.edu, www.utexas.edu/diversity/abriendobrecha.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS FOR SENIORS Badgerdog Literary Publishing is offering creative writing workshops for seniors. Work with professional writers to help create poetry, fiction, or a memoir, and the end products will be published in an anthology for participants to take home. Thursdays through May 27, 10am-noon. YMCA East Communities Branch, 5315 Ed Bluestein, 538-1305 x103. Free. www.badgerdog.org.

★ **SESAME STREET LIVE WITH ELMO & FRIENDS** Sesame Street has been encouraging young minds to imagine and think big for decades. The residents of that TV neighborhood have traveled to Austin bringing songs and tales from around the world. Feb. 18-21: Thu., 7pm; Fri., 10am & 7pm; Sat., 10:30am, 2, & 5:30pm; Sun., 1 & 4:30pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 477-6060. \$13-29. www.uterwincenter.com.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL ALEGRÍA (See Wednesday.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Salvage Vanguard Theater

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Explosives CD Release Emo's
Matthew Ryan Cactus Cafe

Haiti RELIEF Guide

Why not extend that loving mood to the rest of the world? Go to austinchronicle.com/haiti for events and donation opportunities.

now ...

★ **AIR FAIR** The Austin Children's Museum's current exhibition is a whirlwind of excitement with kids exploring and experimenting with the properties of moving air. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$6.50-\$4.50. www.austinkids.org.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SURVEY The city of Austin wants to know what you love and hate about our fair town. Don't hold anything back; that would be counterproductive. It's not just a complaining contest though; offer suggestions for the future. Go to www.imagineaustin.net/survey.htm to participate.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD NOMINATIONS The Austin Climate Protection Program is accepting nominations of individuals, businesses, and organizations who deserve recognition for their green efforts. Go online for nominee criteria, and fill out the submission form before March 1. www.coolaustin.org.

FAMILY ELDERCARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Help a disabled adult or elderly person as a bill payer or guardian advocate. Go online to check for an orientation session that fits your schedule. Family Eldercare, 2210 Hancock, 483-3582. www.familyeldercare.org.

FINANCIAL COACHING Mondays through Saturdays, individuals earning less than \$25,000 and families earning less than \$50,000 can get free, one-on-one help reducing debt, fixing credit, and clarifying other money matters. Foundation Communities, 3036 S. First #200, 610-4026. financialcoach@foundcom.org, www.foundcom.org.

★ **FREE TAX SERVICES** Eight area Community Tax Centers are providing free tax-preparation services to income-qualifying individuals and households this spring, and they're also offering low-fee, refund-anticipation loans. See www.communitytaxcenters.org for participating locations, hours, and details on income qualifications, or just call 211.

★ **GRANNY PANTY SHOWS YOU HOW** Every Friday, check YouTube for a fresh installment of the finest correspondence course you will ever take: Granny Panty's Charm & Etiquette School for Strippers. It's a peek-a-boo hell-yeah, each week, right there in your box. Fridays online. Free. www.flickr.com/photos/granny_panty, www.youtube.com/GrannyPantyBurlesque.

★ **HILL COUNTRY RIDE, YO** Now's the time to get your pedal-pushin' posse, papi, to raise dough for services for those affected by HIV/AIDS through our beloved Interfaith Care Alliance. Do it. Then you can watch your team's name on the big board as that dollar figure soars! Sat., April 24. 371-RIDE. www.hillcountryride.org, www.interfaithcarealliance.org.

HUMAN POTENTIAL CENTER This South Austin nonprofit has oodles of classes and workshops – from yoga and Reiki to art classes and dream interpretation – just waiting to maximize your potential. Check out the website for more info. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.

LAND GRANTS OF THE TEXAS REVOLUTION The latest exhibit, "A Hero's Reward," displays artifacts and historical documents that illuminate how soldiers of different races and backgrounds were compensated for their participation in Texas' struggle

for independence. Capitol Visitors Center, 112 E. 11th, 305-8400. Free. www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com.

NATURAL HEALTH CENTER has workshops in locations all over town, most of which are free of charge. Learn to balance hormones and alleviate allergies and migraines the natural way. Call for upcoming courses. 892-3366. www.naturalhealthaustin.com.

★ **OUT YOUTH DROP IN** High school can be hell, especially for the li'l tyke dykes and fag-o-tots. Our local nonprofit support/drop-in center for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning peeps, ages 12-19, is open to youth three days a week. A place where they can be. Just ... be. Sun. & Wed.-Thu., 4:30-8:30pm. Out Youth House, 909 E. 49th, 419-1233.

★ **POINT FOUNDATION LGBT SCHOLARSHIPS** Hey students! Apply to the nation's largest scholarship-granting org for LGBT students of merit. Applications available now. Deadline: Fri., Feb. 12. shannon@pointfoundation.org, www.pointfoundation.org.

RED TOTE OF HOPE Bring unused personal care items to the Austin Red Cross or area Carl's Jr. location to be distributed to local homeless vets. Needed items include socks, toothbrushes, deodorant, and first aid kits, but a complete list can be found on the website. Through Feb. 25. American Red Cross of Central Texas, 2218 Pershing, 928-4271. www.centex.redcross.org.

★ **SHOTS FOR TOTS** Bring your immunization record and proof of Medicaid coverage (if applicable) and ensure that your kid's shots are up to snuff. Appointments must be made Mondays-Fridays. Saturdays are first-come, first-served from 9am to 1pm. No one will be turned away due to inability to pay. St. John Community Center, 7500 Blessing; Far South Health Clinic, 405 W. Stassney; Rosewood-Zaragosa Neighborhood Center, 2800 Webberville, 972-5520. \$10. www.cityofaustin.org/health/shots.htm.

THUNDERING PAWS DRIVE FOR FIVE February is a slow month at this local no-kill animal sanctuary, making the purse strings tighter than usual. To compensate, it's asking for \$5 donations via its website. Spread the word, and save an animal. www.thunderingpaws.org.

TOTALLY COOL, TOTALLY ART is an art show featuring works by teens, made for teens. Various media are represented including dance, film, and photography. Come and support the future art scene of Austin. Through Feb. 24. Mexic-Arte Museum, 419 Congress, 974-4027. Free. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

& later

★ **AGLIFF'S DRISKILL OSCAR PARTY** Call the paparazzi, papi, it's time for the 82nd annual Academy Awards, and aGLIFF's got 'em covered with posh party digs, a red carpet, the upper crust of Q society, and a very special guest who makes us blush. Sun., March 7. The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 474-5911. \$100, full dinner package; \$30 light fare.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

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Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the Chronicle, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail:

Kate X Messer (Gay Place):
gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

Mark Fagan (Sports):
gameplans@austinchronicle.com.

James Renovitch (everything else):
calendar@austinchronicle.com.

For FAQs and an online submission form, go to austinchronicle.com/commform.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor, 454-5766 or brenner@austinchronicle.com.



LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION (SEE SATURDAY)

Got a sporting event you'd like to see listed
in *The Austin Chronicle*?
Submit your sporty happening online at
austinchronicle.com/commform.

sports

BY MARK FAGAN

listings



COURTESY OF UT

THE MAIN EVENT

★ **GOLDEN GLOVES BOXING TOURNEY** Hosted by the Sheriff's Memorial and Benevolent Society of Travis County, this is the first Golden Gloves boxing tourney to be held in Austin in the last 25 years. Fighters from throughout Central Texas will compete to advance to the state Golden Gloves tourney with a chance to go all the way to the Olympics. All proceeds benefit the SMBS. *Thu.-Fri., Feb. 11-12, 7pm (6pm doors). Travis County Expo Center Banquet Hall, 7211 Decker. \$10 each night.* www.tcsheriff.org.

THE HOME TEAMS

AUSTIN BLACKS RUGBY The Blacks welcome the Midland Rugby Club for 80 minutes of nonstop rugby action. *Sat., Feb. 13, 2pm. Burr Field, 6013 Loyola. Free.* www.austinrugby.com.

LONGHORN WOMEN'S RUGBY hosts its first home game of the spring season. Vs. Rice: *Sat., Feb. 13, noon. UT Intramural Fields, 51st and Guadalupe* www.utrugby.com.

★ **TEXAS STARS** NHL-caliber hockey in Central Texas. The first 3,000 fans on Friday receive free Stars car flags. Vs. Chicago: *Fri., Feb. 12, 7:30pm; Sat., Feb. 13, 7pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/GO-STARs. \$9-50.* www.texasstars hockey.com.

ROUND ROCK EXPRESS NATIONAL ANTHEM AUDITIONS The Round Rock Express are partnering with the Austin Lyric Opera to give fans a chance to sing the National Anthem at an Express game this year. Registration is not required, and there is no fee. Audition No. 1: *Thu., Feb. 18, 6-8:30pm. Ducloux Hall in the Austin Lyric Opera building, 901 Barton Springs Rd. Audition No. 2: Sun., Feb. 21, 1-4pm. United Heritage Center at the Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock.* www.roundrockexpress.com.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Basketball Vs. Nebraska: *Sat., Feb. 13, 3pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$7-45.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Kansas State: *Wed., Feb. 17, 7pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$7-45.* www.texas sports.com.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Schreiner: *Thu., Feb. 11, 7:30pm.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Schreiner: *Thu., Feb. 11, 5:30pm. Concordia Fieldhouse, 11400 Concordia University Dr., 313-4503. \$3-5.* **Softball** Vs. Southwestern University: *Sat., Feb. 13, 1 and 3pm.* Vs. University of Dallas: *Sun., Feb. 14, 1 and 3pm. Old Settlers Park, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock. athletics.concordia.edu.*

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Paul Quinn: *Sat., Feb. 13, 4pm.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Baseball Vs. Texas Lutheran University (doubleheader): *Sat., Feb. 13, noon. Rockwell Family Baseball Field.* www.southwesternpirates.com.

TEXAS STATE Softball Vs. Northern Illinois: *Fri., Feb. 12, 5pm (doubleheader). Vs. New Mexico: Fri., Feb. 12, 7pm; Sat., Feb. 13, 5pm.* Vs. Oklahoma State: *Sat., Feb. 13, 2:30pm; Sun., Feb. 14, 2pm.* Vs. UT-Arlington: *Sun., Feb. 14, 2pm. Bobcat Softball Stadium, San Marcos.* **Women's Tennis** Vs. Trinity TX: *Sat., Feb. 13, 11am.* Vs. St. Edward's: *Thu., Feb. 18, 3pm.* Bobcat Tennis Complex, San Marcos. **Men's Basketball** Vs. Lamar: *Sat., Feb. 13, 4pm. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Nicholls: *Thu., Feb. 18, 7pm. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos.* www.txstatebobcats.com.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Panhandle State: *Thu., Feb. 18, 8pm.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Panhandle State: *Thu., Feb. 18, noon.* www.stedwards.edu/athletics.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

CACCC VALENTINE 5K FUN RUN/WALK Hosted by the Comal County Children's Advocacy Center, benefitting abused children in Comal County. There will also be a kids' 1K with prizes awarded to every child registered. *Sat., Feb. 13, 9am (7am registration). Landa Park, New Braunfels, 830/626-2543.* www.comalcac.org.

RANGER STAMPEDE 5K RUN/WALK NO. 4 Hosted by the Texas School for the Deaf, choose between a 5K run/walk or a 1-mile run/walk in this seven-event series that runs through May. *Wed., Feb. 17, 5pm (registration at 4pm). Texas School for the Deaf, 1102 S. Congress, 410-1078. \$2 (free for students under 21).*

★ **PARAMOUNT BREAK-A-LEG 5K** Formerly the Arts Run, this event is being held in conjunction with the Austin Marathon and Half-Marathon and will support the Paramount and State theatres. Friday night features "Unplugged at the Paramount" with Joe Ely, Billy Joe Shaver, Slaid Cleaves, and more. *Sun., Feb. 14, 7:30am. Near the entrance of the historic Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 692-0519. \$32.* www.austintheatre.org.

AUSTIN MARATHON AND HALF MARATHON This event is unfortunately sold out. Cars and their owners may want to brace themselves for street closures and such. *Sun., Feb. 14, 7am. Downtown Austin.* www.youraustinmarathon.com.

POST-MARATHON YOGA STRETCH Amy Younkman will lead this post-race (the day after) yoga class geared especially toward runners. *Mon., Feb. 15, 7:15-8:15pm. Austin Kula Yoga, 2415 Exposition Blvd., 542-3334. \$15 drop-in or class pass.* www.austinkulayoga.com.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOFTBALL

The Super Bowl has come and gone (Go Saints!) and Major League Baseball doesn't start until April, so it's time for some other sports to shine, and UT softball is a great place to start. Thursday, Feb. 11, at 6:30pm is the opener for coach **Connie Clark** and her youthful squad as they face Texas Woman's University. TWU has never beaten the Longhorns in four previous meetings. Fans can buy \$1 general admission tickets for this game. Come Friday, it's **Texas Invitational** time as UT welcomes DePaul, LSU, and North Carolina to town for a three-day tourney. It's fitting Texas opens up its tourney play against DePaul (Friday, 5pm), as the team boasts former UT superstar and four-time All American **Cat Osterman** as an assistant coach. UT fans will relish this opportunity to see Osterman, who will also be playing professionally for the Tennessee Diamonds of the National Pro Fastpitch league come June. We wish Osterman the greatest of success in her playing and coaching careers. Look for senior infielder **Loryn Johnson** and sophomore outfielder **Courtney Craig** to lead the freshman players to another fun and hopefully winning season. Vs. TWU: *Thu., Feb. 11, 6:30pm.* Vs. Centenary College: *Tue., Feb. 16, 6:30pm.*

TEXAS INVITATIONAL

Fri., Feb. 12: LSU vs. North Carolina, *noon.* LSU vs. DePaul, *2:30pm.* UT vs. DePaul, *5pm.* UT vs. North Carolina, *7:30pm.*

Sat., Feb. 13: DePaul vs. North Carolina, *11am.* UT vs. LSU, *1:30pm.* Semifinal rounds, *5 and 7:30pm.*

Sun., Feb. 14: Third-place game, *10am.* Championship, *12:30pm.*

All games at McCombs Field, 2001 Comal. \$5-8. \$1 general admission for the TWU game. www.texas sports.com.

soccer watch

BY NICK BARBARO

The **Austin Aztex** announced their 2010 season schedule on Monday; they play St. Louis, Tampa Bay, Miami, and Puerto Rico four times each, and each of the other seven teams in the **USSF Division 2** twice. The season stretches almost a month longer than last year's USL-1 season, though it's again 30 games. Of the 15 home games, 10 are on Saturday evenings; the home opener will be Sunday, April 11 against the defending champion Montreal Impact. The Aztex expect to play their first two games at Nelson Field before moving into House Park for the rest of the season. The Aztex will also host the **Houston Dynamo** in a preseason match Sunday, March 14, 5pm. See www.austinztex.com for more info and tickets.

AUSTIN AZTEX 2009 SCHEDULE

Home games are in **bold**.

Sun, April 11, 5pm: Montreal Impact

Sat, April 17 @ AC St. Louis

Sat, April 24, 7:30pm: Rochester Rhinos

Sat, May 1 @ NSC Minnesota Stars

Sat, May 8 @ Tampa Bay Rowdies

Sun, May 16, 5pm: Crystal Palace Baltimore

Wed, May 19, 7:30pm: Tampa Bay Rowdies

Wed, May 26 @ Miami FC Blues

Sat, May 29 @ Crystal Palace Baltimore

Sat, June 5, 7:30pm: Puerto Rico Islanders

Wed, June 9, 7:30pm: Portland Timbers

Sat, June 12, 7:30pm: Vancouver Whitecaps

Sat, June 19, 7:30pm: Miami FC Blues

Sat, June 26 @ Miami FC Blues

Sat, July 3, 7:30pm: Puerto Rico Islanders

Fri, July 9 @ Rochester Rhinos

Sat, July 17, 7:30pm: AC St. Louis

Sat, July 31, 7:30pm: Miami FC Blues

Sat, Aug. 7, 7:30pm: Tampa Bay Rowdies

Sat, Aug. 14 @ Puerto Rico Islanders

Sun, Aug. 22, 5pm: Carolina Railhaws

Thu, Aug. 26 @ Portland Timbers

Sun, Aug. 29 @ Vancouver Whitecaps

Sat, Sept. 4, 7:30pm: NSC Minnesota Stars

Sat, Sept. 11 @ Puerto Rico Islanders

Thu, Sept. 16 @ Tampa Bay Rowdies

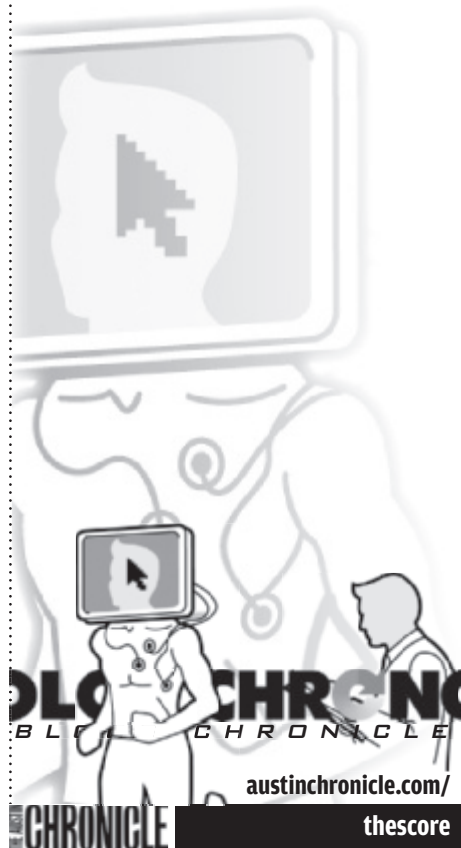
Sat, Sept. 18 @ AC St. Louis

Sat, Sept. 25, 7:30pm: AC St. Louis

Thu, Oct. 1 @ Carolina Railhaws

Sun, Oct. 3 @ Montreal Impact

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arts listings



John & Jen

The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, www.penfoldtheatre.org

Through Feb. 21

Running time: 2 hr

One of my only fears in life is to end up like my parents. I scour my own personality for the fault lines of their lives, I break down how my girlfriend can never be like my mother, I break away from

any comfort if it seems that it might lead me down their trail. And yet, deep down, I know I'll never escape the family and childhood I had. They are imprinted on my identity more indelibly than prints are on my thumbs. Like Philip Larkin's "This Be the Verse" says: "They fuck you up, your mum and dad. They may not mean to, but they do."

The child is father of the man, so the saying goes, and this wrestling of family, generations, and identities is at the heart of Penfold Theatre Company's *John & Jen*, as bittersweet a musical as you're likely to see. From the last days of the grin-and-bear-it Fifties to the early days of the New World Nineties, *John & Jen* sweeps through a panorama of the changes to our fair nation and our fair culture and what they've done to our fair people. While a show trying to take hits from such a smorgasbord of cultural flash points might be expected to dip into the maudlin, *John & Jen* gets past this through its focus on relationships and its music (and through Penfold's excellent production).

John & Jen is really a story of two Johns and one Jen. Jen starts as the first John's protective older sister, but after she is exposed to radical elements while attending college in New York, her opposition to the Vietnam War causes an irreparable rift between her and her brother, who wishes to follow in their abusive father's footsteps. As time progresses and Jen becomes a single mom, her lifestyle and relationship with her son, also named John, are drowned in

a yearning for her brother. Her son doesn't want to be kept down, and she can't bear to let him go.

Family can turn the screw worse than anyone else, and I admired the script by Andrew Lipa and Tom Greenwald for pushing into tougher themes and not letting resolution come easily. This theme also plays into the music, which is full of discordant melodies. Director Michael McKelvey has overseen a wonderful production of this chamber musical and gotten strong performances from his actors.

With a two-person cast, both actors need to be not only likable but likable together – a task especially difficult for the two in *John & Jen* because there is no romantic dynamic onstage. But Sarah Gay and Andrew Cannata are quite engaging and entertaining together. Gay is sweet and always comfortable, and she does a very good job of portraying a character who must span 30 years in age. Cannata has a powerhouse voice and a charisma that seems untaught.

At times sweet, at times somber, *John & Jen* puts a lot into its musical, and Penfold's production brings it all to the stage in a very crisp, true production. At the end of the show, I wanted to call my mother and tell her I love her (honestly). We may never be able to escape our parents' personalities or our own, the things that trip us up, but we can search for the love that lights the way out. *John & Jen* shows us the light and the dark in this engaging production. – Avimaan Syam

theatre

OPENING

PEER GYNT Ev Lunning Jr. directs the Robert Bly adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's masterpiece at St. Edward's University. "Puppetry, music, and wonder" abet this Nordic theatrical adventure. Feb. 11-21. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Mary Moody Northern Theatre at St. Edward's University, 3001 S. Congress, 448-8484. \$18 (\$15, in advance; \$12, students, seniors). www.stedwards.edu/hum/thtr/mmmt.html.

THE BAWDY FIVE Behold the naughtiest tales from Chaucer, the Decameron, and more – with cuckolding, pregnant nuns, wicked stepmothers, horny monks, dirty limericks, and live music from Carmina Burana. Now onstage, in 3-D Debaucherama, from those scandalous scallywags yclept the **Baron's Men**. Note: No children allowed; ren-fair sluts of any gender heartily welcomed. Fri.-Sat., Feb. 12-27, 8pm. The Curtain Theatre, 7400 Coldwater Canyon, 986-6900. \$15 (\$12, ACoT; \$10, students, seniors). www.thebaronsmen.com.

A BRIEF NARRATIVE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY BIRTH OF RABBITS The newest drama from acclaimed playwright C. Denby Swanson is a world premiere at Salvage Vanguard Theater under the direction of Jenny Larson: "Mare, a surrogate for her infertile sister Kitty, has just given birth to her first ... rabbit. There will be 24 additional rabbits after this." Surreal, vibrant, and compelling, with a top-notch cast invigorated by music from Graham Reynolds and puppetry by Connor Hopkins. For more, see "A Brief Narrative of an Extraordinary Birth of Rabbits," p.35. Thu.-Sat., Feb. 12-March 6, 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$15. www.salvagevanguard.org.

SHARDS OF LOVE Poullette MacDougal's arrangement of short comedies – "Eight Stories, Eight Couples, Eight Less-Than-Ideal Relationships" – is a world premiere for the Paradox Players, directed by Lisa Foster, Charles R. Hill, Joni McLain, and Ann Edwards. Feb. 12-28. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. \$15-20 (\$10, seniors). www.paradoxplayers.org.

UT NEW THEATRE Good new stuff from the UT Department of Theatre & Dance! The annual showcase of new plays written by third-year master's of fine arts in playwrighting candidates, to be precise. All shows at UT Lab Theatre (300 E. 23rd). Say, look here:

White Tie Ball by Martin Zimmerman. Feb. 12-14. Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 2pm. \$10.

Blue Point by Kyle John Schmidt. Feb. 19-21. Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 2pm. \$10.

The Tides of Aberdeen by Erin Phillips. Feb. 26-28. Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 2pm. \$10. www.finearts.utexas.edu/tad.

ARCADIA Tom Stoppard's multifaceted comic mystery is directed by Richard Soddors for Texas State University out in San Marcos. Feb. 16-21. Tue.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Mainstage University Theatre, 430 Moon, San Marcos. 512/245-2204. \$10 (\$7, students).

THE ATHEIST Ronan Noone's dark and vicious comedy is directed by Ken Webster for Hyde Park Theatre. This one-man show stars the talented Joey Hood – of *Killer Joe* and *Bombs in Your Mouth* fame – as a corrupt reporter who will do anything to be famous, even if it means blackmailing a Congressman. Recommended – even though all *actual* journalists are, of course, pure as the driven fucking snow. Thu.-Sat., Feb. 18-March 13, 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$19 (\$17, students, seniors, ACoT; Thursdays, pay what you can). www.hydeparktheatre.org.

CURSE OF THE HOUSE OF USHER John F. Carroll has adapted this stagework from "the life and stories of Edgar Allan Poe," and now here's its world premiere from the thespian provocateurs of Weird City Theatre, under the direction of Amelia Turner. Feb. 18-28. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 745-2636. \$15 (\$12, students, seniors). www.weirdcitytheatre.com.

CLOSING

FRONTERAFEST 2010 This is it, the final week of this 17th annual iteration of unjuried, wild-talent performance: The final week, where the best from each Short Fringe **Best of the Week** has been gathered to offer a single weekend of the **Best of the Fest**. Not that we agree with all the choices the official judges made, ahem, but we can unhesitatingly recommend the shows this weekend. Cream of the everlovin' crop, as they say, and worth your while even though it contains 100% of no Confidence Men. Enjoy: Thu.-Sat., Feb. 11-13, 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. www.hydeparktheatre.com.

THE DIXIE SWIM CLUB Up in Round Rock, the Sam Bass Theatre presents a play (written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten) in which "five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team, set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships." Directed by Andy Brown. Through Feb. 14. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Sam Bass Community Theatre, 600 N. Lee St., Round Rock, 512/244-0440. \$10-15. www.sambasstheatre.org.

ONGOING

MACBETH The Austin Drama Club presents its version of Shakespeare's notorious Scottish play, directed by the irrepressible Japhy Fernandes (who brings in a few family members to increase the relational resonance). E-mail for location information. Through Feb. 20. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Donations accepted. japhyfernandes@live.com.

'NIGHT, MOTHER Marsha Norman's Pulitzer prize-winning drama that answers the question "What would you do if someone you loved sat down with you one night and calmly told you that they were going to end their life before morning?" is staged by the Way Off Broadway Community Players out Leander way, Lynda Davidson directing. Through Feb. 20. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy, Leander, 512/259-5878. \$15 (\$12, students, seniors; \$8, children). www.wobcp.org.

MISALLIANCE This fast-paced George Bernard Shaw comedy features a whirlwind of characters from different social classes and professions: an underwear magnate, an ambassador, a Polish acrobat, and a socialist clerk, careening off one another during the course of one afternoon at an English country estate. Don Toner directs a stellar cast in this Austin Playhouse mainstage production. See review, p.74. Through Feb. 21. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$26-35 (half-price, students). www.austinplayhouse.com.

BURIED CHILD Sam Shepard's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama digs deep into a family's dysfunction and reveals the deterioration of the American dream. This new staging is directed by Caleb Straus for City Theatre. Through Feb. 21. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5:30pm. City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. \$15-20. www.citytheatreAustin.org.

JOHN & JEN Penfold Theatre Company presents this original musical (scored for piano, cello, and percussion) that explores the relationships between brother and sister and parents and children, set against the backdrop of an everchanging America between the 1950s and 1990s. Music by Andrew Lipa and lyrics by Tom Greenwald; directed by Michael "Evil Dead: The Musical" McKelvey. See review, left. Through Feb. 21. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Also: Wed., Feb. 17, 8pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 800/838-3006. \$20 (\$15, students, seniors). www.penfoldtheatre.com.

MARY STUART: A DRAMATIC PORTRAIT OF ROYAL RIVALRY BETWEEN MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS AND QUEEN ELIZABETH OF ENGLAND This Peter Oswald adaptation of Friedrich Schiller's fine historical drama is directed by Ann Ciccolella for Austin Shakespeare. Civil, contentious, cunning, sincere; these are the battles that brought us here. Champagne & chocolate reception: Sat., Feb. 13, 7pm. Otherwise: Feb. 11-28. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 457-5100. \$16 (\$15, students; \$50, Champagne opening night). www.austinsakespeare.com.

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brenner@austinchronicle.com.

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10pm - **Bullwhip Tango**
The Lover's Dance

10:15pm - **The Mating Game**
Special Lover's Edition
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11pm - **Black Widow Burlesque**
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AT&T ch. 7, Suddenlink ch. 15



Funny how your whole weekend can be thrown off by a little thing like an airplane crashing into your greenhouse. One minute, people of sturdy stock and moral fiber are studiously upholding the status quo of Edwardian society. Then, crash!

Suddenly, you have engagements being broken, young women chasing young men, middle-aged fathers mooning over a circus performer like schoolboys, and clerks brandishing pistols at captains of industry. Did I say the weekend thrown off? More like the social order thrown over.

Which may well have been what George Bernard Shaw had in mind in penning *Misalliance* back in 1910. The 20th century, with its new technological marvels such as the airplane, was plowing into all those starchy mores and traditions of the 19th century, not to mention still older institutions like the aristocracy, and sending them all arse over teacups. The aristocracy was fading, the working class was coming on strong, and women were walking out of the kitchen and into the workplace and voting booth. Victoria was gone, and she was not coming back.

Of course, in Shaw's self-proclaimed "Debate in One Sitting," what sparks the societal upheaval is not so much the crash of the plane – an event treated by most who witness it with all the distress of a stale crumpet at teatime – as the contents of the craft: the dashing young pilot Joey Percival and his comely passenger, the Polish aerialist Lina Szczepanowska. The former catches the eye of spirited Hypatia Tarleton, who wastes no time giving the heave-ho to her blue-blooded milksop of a fiancé and giving chase to the aviator, while the latter snares the attention of, well, pretty much everyone with a Y chromosome. The vitality of these visitors is enough to lure the upright gentlemen and ladies they drop in on off the path of custom, convention, and propriety, even to the point of forsaking betrothal and matrimony.

A century later, the notion of a woman choosing her own mate – or choosing no

mate at all – may be old news, but the debate that Shaw conducts on their behalf still has a commanding vigor, especially when it's argued by actors with a command of his singular brand of disputatiousness, one generously spiked with Irish loquacity and wit. The cast of this Austin Playhouse production is such a bunch, and it's a pleasure watching them light into these speeches with their sharply articulated points of view. As underwear magnate John Tarleton, owner of the estate where the plane (and everything else) goes down, David Stahl revels in the assertiveness of a self-made man; when Tarleton punctuates some point he's made with a fervent note to read some author or other (Read Ibsen! Read Jefferson! Read John Stuart Mill!), Stahl delivers the admonition like a fencer thrusting his foil to the heart. Lara Toner takes a similar relish in his daughter's contrarian nature; she defies custom and pursues her man with a self-satisfied grin of a cat who's just dined on canary. Other players may be more understated – say, Bernadette Nason's drolly sensible Mrs. Tarleton, Michael Stuart's vermouth-dry Lord Summerhays, or Jason Newman's anxiously pursued Percival – but you can still sense their connection to the material; they're at home here. And it keeps Shaw's ideas, dated or not, feeling current.

That said, this is not a production that leaves you feeling the sharp edges of Shaw's political positions. Director Don Toner plays more toward the human comedy in the material, the fickleness and folly we display whenever we are attracted to one another, the feelings that are the banana peel on which our rectitude and righteousness slip and fall. It isn't that we lose the political dimension of *Misalliance* here, but we're inclined to see the social order upended by the crash of a human heart.

– Robert Faires

DJ LORD PYRO: TO SERVE MAN This is a multimedia dance party inspired by the *Twilight Zone* version of the classic Damon Knight short story, with the DJ spinning a 90-minute (re)mix of his *To Serve Man* EP featuring the latest dubstep tracks paired with clips from classic Fifties sci-fi films and TV shows. (Also, ask about the Valentine's special with Bitch Wine and chocolate cake.) *Sat., Feb. 13, 10:30pm; Fri., Feb. 19, 10:30pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-19 (free, with purchase of ticket to the 8pm Arrhythmia show). www.vortexrep.org.*

ARRHYTHMIA Vortex Repertory Company and UpRise! Productions present the world premiere of the newest hip-hop theatre event written and directed by award-winning playwright Zell Miller III. It's a modern urban odyssey – featuring performances by Ebony Stewart, Sean Tate, Aaron Sanders, and Toni Ringgold, with music by DJ STATIK and Buddy Cannon – that examines love in all of its ugliness and splendor. *Through Feb. 20. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30. www.vortexrep.org.*

THE FLAMING IDIOTS Oh, now *here's* a glorious reunion – sort of like Peaches and Herb and more Herb, y'know? The three brainy acrobats (Pyro, Gyro, and Walter, by stage name) who conjure shows of pure entertainment are reunited and returning (it's been years!) to Zach Theatre with their manic tumbling and impressive antics. They're more Conan O'Brien than Corny Grandpa, more Shando than Shecky, and, ladies and gentlemen, that's just the gravy: These fellers could keep their yaps shut the whole night and their mad juggling skills alone would give you your ticket's worth of joy. Yeah: We like them a lot. Highly recommended. *Through March 7. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$20-45. www.zachscott.com.*

AUDITIONS

AUSTIN GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY: AUDITIONS FOR THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Austin announces auditions for its June 10-20 production, with Ralph MacPhail Jr. and Jeffrey Jones-Ragona as artistic and musical directors, respectively. All roles are open for casting. A prepared, accompanied aria, completed audition form, résumé, and headshot are required. Individual auditions are approximately 10 minutes long. See website for full details. *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 27-28. By appointment only. 733-1006. www.gilbertsullivan.org.*

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE This wildly popular musical will be directed for Zach Theatre by Nick Demos this summer. Prepare a song from the show, bring a headshot and résumé. Call or e-mail to schedule an appointment, specifying the character(s) you'd prefer to play. *Mon. & Wed., Feb. 15 & 17. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0594 x240. jdouglas@zachtheatre.org.*

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAFE CAFFEINE 909 W. Mary, 447-9473. www.cafecaffeine.com.

Comedysportz Competitive improv? Yes, a vigorous battle between skilled improvisers – sort of like *Highlander*, but unscripted – and maestro **Les McGehee** and his talented friends bring it in full force each weekend to one of the sweetest little coffeehouses in the 78704. *Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30pm. Sexy Improv for Lovers* Oh my! This show's gonna get a mite, ah, steamy, so you'll want to leave any kiddies at home. And maybe think about stocking up on lube for later? Just a suggestion. *Sat., Feb. 13, 9:30pm. \$5.*

CAP CITY COMEDY 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. Daily, 7pm-1am. www.capcitycomedy.com. **Leeanne Morgan** Out of Appalachia and into San Antonio, popular mama-san mirthmeister Morgan returns to Austin with her comedy stylings and a stage-full of friends to set four nights a-hopping. *Feb. 11-13. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

Cap City Open Mic Hey, it could be you up there slaying your friends and neighbors as they've slain you. *Sundays, 8pm. Free with college ID.*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 524-2807. www.coldtownetheater.com.

The Week in Coldness: The fierce improv artists of **Parallelogramophonograph** present Kaci Beeler's favorite excuse for flagrant costumery: **French Farce. Also, Level 6. Thu., 8pm. Midnight Society Presents** its particular vein of sketch in the ColdTowne comedy arm. *Thu., 10pm. Eye for an iPhone* is a Second City-style sketch show led by the talented and happily hirsute **Dave Buckman. Fri., 8pm. Punchline** Stand-up comedy, ColdTowne style: some of Austin's best. *Fri., 10pm. Boy Toy* presents a free show, featuring **Joel and Fred. Sat., 7pm. Stool Pigeon** features **Jenny Carlson** jump-starting the night with a thrice-told tale. *Sat., 8pm. Cage Match* Two improv teams go all lucha libre on each other for your grins and giggles. *Sat., 9pm. Stone Cold Improv* features the **ColdTowners** and, hurrah, **Murphy! Sat., 10pm. The Late Night Show** sizzles with **Midnight Society** and **Nice Astronaut. Sat., 11pm. ColdTowne All-Stars** is a free show with the ah, all-stars of ColdTowne and **Unfurled. Sun., 7pm. Murphy and the Jam** is also free. *Sun., 8:30pm.* Also, the **Monday Night Mash** happens each week, with free admission, and can you guess the night on which it occurs at 8:30pm?

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.estersfolies.com.

Esther's Follies Esther's popular jesters present a crowd-pleasing cornucopia of musical satire and lively vaudeville, Texas-style! The magic of **Ray Anderson**, topical satires on the news of the day, and musical production numbers begin this decade in hilarity right there on Sixth Street. Reservations highly recommended. *Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.*

THE HIDEOUT THEATER 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.hideouththeatre.com.

Love Is a Funny Thing Join some of the finest improvisers in town – Asaf Ronen! Andy Crouch! Kacey Samiee! Troy Miller! others! – for a charming evening of improv games, scenes, chocolate, and flowers that will fuel the engines of your undying love or ease the pain, the pain, oh, the excruciating pain, of lovelessness. *Sun., Feb. 14, 8pm. \$20.*

Thursday: Oh, how **Threefer Madness** brings you a trio of improv troupes! Oh, how they work without a script! *8pm. \$3.*

Friday: This Week Tonight brings you fast and furious improv based on current headlines, slicing and dicing the latest scandals and more. *8pm. \$10. The Double Barrel* features two troupes of the-devil-only-knows-what for your late-night amusement. *10pm. \$10.*

Saturday: Austin Secrets Every week, an improvisational exploration of the hidden things that define who we are, **based on secrets sent in anonymously by your friends and neighbors** – maybe by you. It's off the cuff and in your lives. And recommended. *8pm. \$10. Maestro* is a fierce, elimination-style battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience, sure to bring out the wackiest. *10pm. \$10.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. www.thevelvetroom.com.

Open Mic Night They're coming out of the alcohol-sodden woodwork to try and make you laugh, with your host, **Michael Priest. Thursdays, 10pm.**

Mark Agee and John Tole Hey, it's a pair of headliners this weekend at the Velv! Politically incorrect humor sure to push a tender button or two and leave you with tears of laughter dripping into the same cocktail that's catching the excess from your overflowing, liberal, college-educated bleeding heart, am I right? And **Michael Priest** opens. *Fri.-Sat., Feb. 12-13, 9:30 & 11:30pm.*

BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

THE AUSTIN COMEDY TRAINWRECK Stand-up comedy – right there in the Hole, on the Drag, in the heart of collegiate Texas. *Tuesdays, 10pm. Hole in the Wall, 2538 Guadalupe. \$5. www.myspace.com/austincomedytrainwreck.*

KICK BUTT COMEDY Open Mic Comedy Bring it or have it brought to you, clever citizen. *Wednesdays, 8pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.*

GAG REFLEX: VALENTINE'S COMEDY BASH Dale Roe and his sketch-happy troupe of warped romantics conspire to make Cupid blush and make you



LITTLE STOLEN MOMENTS HEATS UP YOUR VALENTINE'S DAY AT THE GHOST ROOM THIS SUNDAY.

laugh with this collection of songs and skits, new material and greatest hits. *Sun., Feb. 14, 5pm & 7pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$15. www.sockmonkeymedia.com.*

GABRIEL IGLESIAS: THE FLUFFY SHOP TOUR He's not fat – he's fluffy, is the idea. The popular comedian provides an evening of storytelling, parodies, characters, and sound effects that bring all his personal issues to life. *Thu., Feb. 18, 8pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$41. www.fluffyguy.com.*

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL Two Gnap!tastic improv troupes, one after the other, for maximum compare-and-contrast opportunities of comedy styling and schools of prov-fu. This weekend, **Ace Manning's Antic Dote** and **Shannon McCormick as the 100-year-old Dutch explorer and merchant Cornelius Corneliuszoon De Vries**. Recommended. *Sat., Feb. 13, 10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.*

ONE MORE NIGHT Because the thousand and one nights of Scheherazade weren't quite enough, here's the one that got away: Improvised tales of courageous heroes, sexy sultanas, genies, and other mythical beasts, performed by a Gnap! Theater Projects cast under the direction of Audrey Sansom. *Through Feb. 13. Fri-Sat., 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.*

dance

LITTLE STOLEN MOMENTS: LOVE-DAY SHOW Austin's fiercest dance trio presents a gorgeously clever assault on clubland boredom, bringing a sampler of its badass moves (along with mad ukulele by Stanley Roy & His Vice) to defibrillate the doldrums out of your love-day heart. Recommended. *Sun., Feb. 14, 9pm. The Ghost Room, 304 W. Fourth. \$5.*

BALLET AUSTIN: TRUTH & BEAUTY/THE BACH PROJECT BA artistic director Stephen Mills unveils the world premiere of a contemporary, evening-length ballet, a rich musical collaboration with visual artist Trenton Doyle Hancock and Austin composer Graham Reynolds, accompanied by the Austin Chamber Music Center, led by Michelle Schumann (who also performs on solo piano). The music moves from Bach to Philip Glass to Reynolds' original rethinking of Bach, while the movement offers a variety of sensual movement styles, just in time for Valentine's Day. *Feb. 12-14. Fri-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 476-2163. \$27-77. www.balletaustin.org.*

FORKLIFT DANCEWORKS: PROJECT FORKLIFT Six choreographers take the challenge to create new, commissioned works in the Forklift style, which takes ordinary human beings from all walks of life and turns them into dancers – usually to charming (or even exhilarating) effect. Artistic Director Allison Orr is joined by Mari Akita, Ann Berman, Caroline

Sutton Clark, Sharon Marroquin, and Zenobia Taylor for dances that include 11 massage therapists, a cast of local cooks, a 74-year-old former ballerina, and a policeman. For more, see "Forklift Danceworks," p.35. *Through Feb. 21. Fri-Sat., 8pm; Sun., Feb. 21, 2pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 447-6405. \$12-\$20. www.forkliftdanceworks.org.*

classical music

OPENING

SAINT CECILIA MUSIC SERIES: VOX ET DIGITAS Oberlin Conservatory graduates Nathan Medley and Mark Shuldner offer a high-energy performance of Italian Baroque cantatas and British songs by Purcell, Handel, and Blow. *Fri., Feb. 12, 8pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa, 345-8866 x55. \$15 (\$12, seniors; \$5, students). www.stceciliamusicseries.org.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: SONGS OF BILITIS Music by Claude Debussy and poems by Pierre Louys are featured in this historic re-creation of recitation, chamber ensemble, mime, and *tableaux vivants* based on the salon performance given in Paris in 1901. *Fri., Feb. 12, 7pm. Alma Thomas Theatre, Southwestern University, Georgetown. 512/863-1504. \$12 (\$10, seniors; \$5, students). www.southwestern.edu/boxoffice.*

AMERICAN RECORDER SOCIETY: WORKSHOPS AND PERFORMANCE World Music Nina Stern and Peter Maund introduce several melodies, scales (maquam), and typical rhythms of Middle Eastern music, as well as the exciting compound rhythms of Eastern European dances. **Adding Percussion to Your Ensemble** Medieval and Renaissance dance music. Bring a melody instrument (recorder, flute, etc.), a hand drum (some extra drums will be available), and your own music stand. *Sat., Feb. 13. 10am-noon, world music; 1-3pm, percussion. \$35 (\$20 for one session). Wanderings* features Stern and Maund performing chants, songs, and dances from Medieval Italy, Armenia, the Balkans, and the Middle East. *Sat., Feb. 13, 8pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa, 345-8866. \$18 (\$12, seniors, students; \$8, children).*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: EMANUEL FEUERMANN TRIBUTE Cellist Brinton Averil Smith and pianist Evelyn Chen. *Tue., Feb. 16, 7pm. Alma Thomas Theatre, Southwestern University, Georgetown. 512/863-1379. Free. www.southwestern.edu/sarofm.*

LENTEN CONCERTS AT NOON The annual lunchtime series features inspiring music, reflective hymnody, and food for the soul (and stomach – for a fee). This week: Kathleen Turner, oboe and organ. Free parking in the St. David's garage, 8th & Trinity. *Through March 25. Thursdays, noon. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 415-5688. Free (\$8, with lunch). www.stdave.org.*



Freestyle, Barefoot Dance
www.dancingtogether.org

Austin Yoga School
1122 S. Lamar, Suite C
Sundays 10am-noon
Wednesdays 7:45-9:45pm

NiaSpace
3212 S. Congress
Fridays 7:45-9:45pm

Sunday, February 21 ONLY, 10am-noon
Austin Ballet School Studios
501 3rd St. W.
(plenty of parking all around)

Join "Dancing Together" every Sunday morning from 10am until noon and MWF 7:45-9:45pm to **let the music dance you!** No set moves or choreography. Ecstatic Dance or Community Dance is great aerobic exercise to music from all over the world, for all kinds of people. Filtered water and restrooms provided. \$7 Admission. Kids dance free.

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'Artistic Textures: Studies From Wood to Wax'



AN INTROSPECTIVE LIFE BY ED LINDLOF

Gallery at the J, JCAA,
7300 Hart, 735-8000, www.shalomaaustin.org
Through Feb. 22

Dare we wax critical about wood? Might an evaluation of wax read as wooden?

Let's eschew wondering if and just tackle both at once, as

inspired by the current exhibition at the Jewish Community Association of Austin's Gallery at the J: "Artistic Textures: Studies From Wood to Wax."

Two shows, here, two artists responsible: Ed Lindlof is the man with the wood; Sharon Kyle Kuhn is the woman with the wax.

Lindlof's works, a series called "A Life," provide a view of *many* distinct lives, each one represented by a beginning, a middle, and an end in compelling miniature sculptures lathed, joined, shaped, and shining from various types of wood. Wood that's been stained, in some cases; wood that's been painted, in others; wood that's been added to or subtracted from, as history adds and subtracts from our lives. Sometimes the wood is covered with gravel, sometimes gilt with gold leaf, and, repeatedly, in minute variations among this panoply of lives, shaped into recurrent symbols that add depth and provide ligneous and liminal clues to the distilled biographies. Chairs, ladders, cages, windows, bodies bound mummywise, staircases leading to only the Original Joiner knows where: These and other exquisitely crafted objects (complicating an intriguing parade of Platonic solids) inform triplets of sculpture called, for instance, *A Damaged Life*, *An Industrious Life*, *A Sacrificed Life*, *An Introspective Life*.

Lindlof's own life – *An Artistic Life*, perhaps? – includes a history of professional graphic design, of excellent work completed for *The New Yorker*, Bantam Books, and other

prestigious print concerns. If you knew his creations in that realm, you might mourn the industry's loss, until you saw this show or the other sculptures that the man has turned his expert hand to in the years since; then you'd be glad for the career switcheroo, because its results enrich the life of modern art even more than they must enrich Lindlof's own.

Kuhn, instead of fabricating from the natural, takes the already fabricated – floppy disks, nails, string, photographic slides, magnetic film – and, by embedding it in thick fields of encaustic wax, renders textures that seem, eerily, as if they naturally occur *somewhere*. Discretely framed squares and rectangles swirl with amalgamations of similar technological jetsam, seeming like patches torn from the colorful, rugose hide of some barely imaginable Leviathan. You can look at these works and appreciate the cleverness of the intermingling, the way the future once promised by the rough hardware of the industrial revolution or the more effete effects of computer storage systems are captured, drowning, in a medium – encaustics! – of the past. Or, hell, you can just look at them: There is much beauty here, where once was trash.

These two exhibitions stretch the length of the Gallery at the J's long, long hallway; Lindlof's, capturing lives in polished three-dimensional haiku; Kuhn's, giving new life to materials long after product obsolescence; both, marking time and space in memory's most delighted arena. – Wayne Alan Brenner

visual arts

EVENTS

STUDIO2GALLERY: COMPASSION ART AUCTION is an art-filled fundraiser to help with fixing the shambles of the Haiti tragedy. Valentine's card-making, silent auction, all manner of beautiful creative energies in service of mitigating the suffering. Sat., Feb. 13, 1-4pm. 1700 S. Lamar, 426-9102. www.studio2gallery.com.

ARTIST'S VIDEO: WHAT MANNER OF PERSON ART THOU? The Blanton Museum presents Erin Cosgrove's animation about two anachronistic believers who dispense justice on those they deem to be evildoers. Thu., Feb. 18, 7pm. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. Free. www.blantonmuseum.org.

ART BOOBIES Iris the Artiste has teamed up with photographers and art models to collaborate and produce works of art expressing the female form, focusing on the breast as a source of inspiration. [Ed. note: "Hey, my eyes are up here."] With burlesque performances by Iris, Savonne the Minx, and Ilsa the Wolf; music by DJ Mahealani & DJ Honeycomb; also, extra yum, raspberry cosmos and cupcakes. Sat., Feb. 13, 7pm (with performances at 9pm; dancing at 10pm). 916 Springdale, 927-1118. \$12. www.blue theatre.org.

JIM SHARREDEN OF HATCH SHOW PRINTS brings an inspirational show & tell about those amazing pop-culture posters (now featured at the Austin Museum of Art), with an intro by Austin's own Marc "Oosik No. 1" English. Sat., Feb. 13, 2pm. 501 N. I-35, 485-3001. \$10 (free, AMOA and AIGA members). www.501studios.com.

OPENING

YARD DOG FOLK ART: LISA BRAWN New pop-art woodcuts (made from 100-year-old Douglas fir, no less) are on display in the Calgary artist's "Honey, Why Are You So Sweet?" show. Reception: Sat., Feb. 13, 7-9pm. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.

D BERMAN GALLERY: DENNY MCCOY New paintings of color and stripe, color and s[t|r|i|p|e. Exhibition: Feb. 11-March 27. Reception (with live music by guitar virtuoso Steve Kostelnik): Sat., Feb. 20, 1pm. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.

AMERICAN LETTERPRESS: THE ART OF THE HATCH SHOW PRINT The Austin Museum of Art presents a riveting retrospective of posters from Nashville's acclaimed graphics powerhouse. Show & tell (with Hatch manager, designer, and archivist Jim Sherraden): Sat., Feb. 13, 2pm. *The Independent*, 501 N. I-35. \$10. Exhibition: Feb. 13-May 6. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.

CO-LAB: THE MELLOW DRAMA OF THE LOVE KNOTS This is Kendra Kinsey's celebration of the beauty as well as the absurdity of love: a beautiful mess, an obsessive-compulsive, patterned collection of oddities that explore the fantasies and fallacies of love and loneliness. Opening reception and performance: Sun., Feb. 14, 7-11pm. Closing reception: Sat., Feb. 20, 7-11pm. 613 Allen. www.colabspace.org.

SVT GALLERY: I DO NOT WANT WHAT I HAVE NOT GOT Lee Webster curates this glorious collection of works by female artists – Christa Palazzolo, Leah DeVun, and Jill Pangallo among them. Reception: Sun., Feb. 14, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through March 19. 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. www.salvagevanguard.org.

CLOSING

OKAY MOUNTAIN: INTO THE LIGHT This is Christine Gray's second solo exhibition at Okay Mountain, wherein the artist continues to explore the frenetic play between real and unreal created using sculptural arrangements as the basis for her paintings. Through Feb. 13. 1312-B E. Cesar Chavez. www.okaymountain.com.

ONGOING

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646. www.joycedibona.com.

GAY FAY KELLY: BRIAN JOHNSON The master printer presents a series of 5-foot-wide relief prints in "... the more things change ..." Hours by appointment; call for a viewing. Through Feb. 26. 1811 W. Eighth, 478-7676. www.gayfaykellyart.com.

CECILIA LING: MY SECRET GARDEN Photography of natural aquatic scenes from Austin, France, China, and more. Through Feb. 28. 360 Gallery, 6720 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 346-6789. www.360galleryofaustin.org.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY: GRAPHIC DESIGN SENIOR SHOW Through Feb. 25. Fine Arts Building, 3001 S. Congress. 492-3159. www.stedwards.edu.

CHAN CHAN: PHOTOS AND PAINTINGS OF CUBA The photography of Piercarlo Abate and the paintings of Luis Abreu show a side of Cuba that's seldom seen. 81 San Marcos St. www.piercarloabate.com.

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. 12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.eyeccontactart.com.

AUSTIN ART GARAGE Original art by local artists. 2200 S. Lamar, 351-5934. www.austinartgarage.com.

AUSTIN ART SPACE: FOR THE LOVE OF ART This fifth annual show is juried by Beryl Kerwick and features artists' interpretations of love. Reception: Fri., Feb. 12, 6-9pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 27. 7739 Northcross Ste. Q, 771-2868. www.austinartspace.com.

DUMONT GALLERY Linda Dumont: cityscapes, abstracts, and portraits. Call for appointment. 906 E. Fifth. 698-1890. www.lindadumont.com.

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. 1219 W. Sixth.

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a nonprofit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. 6601 Felix, 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: CLOWNS AND PORTRAITS That's right: as painted by Brooklyn-based artist Jim Torok. Through March 13. 360 Nueces #50, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.

REAL GALLERY: 'WATER' COLORS Photography by Greta Olivas, of the fountains at Butler Park. Exhibition: Through March 13. 101 W. Sixth, 775-0458. www.gretaolivas.com.

ART IN A NUTSHELL This is the gallery of Ismael Cavazos, creator of "The Old Man in the Peanut," featuring his creations involving scribbles, drip paintings, rocks, inkblots, and clouds. 2209 S. First, 436-6551. www.ismaelcavazos.com.

ARTISTIC TEXTURES: STUDIES FROM WOOD TO WAX New Works by Ed Lindlof and Sharon Kyle Kuhn. See review, left. Exhibition: Through Feb. 22. Gallery at the J, JCAA, 7300 Hart. 735-8000. www.shalomaaustin.org.

REAL GALLERY: SACRED ILLUMINATIONS Behold: Tatiana Nikolova-Houston has further glorified the work of ancient Slavic scribes! Through Feb. 27. Scarbrough Building Lobby, 101 W. Sixth. 775-0458. www.realgalleryaustin.com/photo_12.html.

FRAME CORNER GALLERY: R. STERLING HERATY "2010: Contemporary Art & Architectural Renderings." Through Feb. 28. 5601 Adams, 453-7788.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY Artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. 78 San Marcos, 457-0171. www.pablataboadastudio.com.

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, classes, and more. 1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.

BLANTON MUSEUM: DESIRE The Blanton strips the covers from its latest public offering: an exhibition, incorporating many media, of human desire in its myriad forms. We reckon this diverse show of works, curated by Annette Carozzi, could make a woman or a man ... stir. Through April 25. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. 108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the backyard of a South Austin home. Hours: Saturdays and Sundays, noon-9pm, or by appointment. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.keepeaustinweird.com.

DOMY BOOKS: HALFWAY TO FOREVER The artist **Give Up's** large-scale screenprints are designed using photos, paper, scissors, and a photocopy machine. Old-school band-flier style meets fine art subversion on Domy's wonderwalls. *Through March 11.* 913 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-3669. www.domystore.com/austin/index.html.

BUTRIDGE GALLERY: THE STATIONS OF THE WEST

John Mulvany's one-man show explores loss of faith – in governments, religions, and institutions, riding the current waves of anxiety and uncertainty about the future. *Through Feb. 25.* 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 974-4000. www.cityofaustin.org/dougherty/gallery.htm.

THE HIDEOUT: THE KISSING SHOW The enjoyable art of mashing lips, as depicted in photos, paintings, and other media, gathered by curator Jennifer Nelson Gordon. *Through Feb. 27.* 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.hideouttheatre.com.

L. NOWLIN GALLERY: LOLI KANTOR The Fort Worth-based photographer presents “There Was a Forest: Jewish Life in Eastern Europe Today,” featuring her documentary work portraying Holocaust survivors. *Through Feb. 27.* 1202-A W. Sixth, 626-9301. www.knowlingallery.com.

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: IMAGINING MEXICO: EXPRESSION IN POPULAR CULTURE This new exhibition illustrates the vibrant and multifaceted nation of Mexico. *Through April 18.* 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

MACC: SERGIO RODRIGUEZ The Mexican American Cultural Center presents “Reflections,” the large-scale oil paintings of this acclaimed artist. *Through March 27.* 600 River St., 478-6222. www.maccaustin.org.

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART presents an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork. 7801 N. Lamar Ste. B-148, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.

MONARCH EVENT CENTER: NEW YEAR NEW SHOW

The Monarch in Lincoln Village has new owners, did you know, and they aim to do right by the ATX and its cultural brilliance. Exhibit A: this inaugural art show featuring work by **Christa Palazzolo**, **Ryan Davis**, and **Dustin Michael Pevey**. *Through March 26.* 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 371-1711. www.themonarchtexas.com.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL & ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA

A curator-led tour of this museum's quirky and delightful “Impermanent Collection” is one of the hidden wonders of Austin. Tours: *Saturdays*, 1-4pm. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. www.mnae.org.

PRO-JEX GALLERY: MINORITY REPORT Martha Grenon presents her documentary photography of Roma life in Albania and Kosovo. *Through Feb. 26.* 1710 S. Lamar Ste. C, 472-7707.

PUMP PROJECT: INTERLUDES Complex and evocative new works by UT's Michael Mogavero. *Through Feb. 20.* 702 Shady. www.pumpproject.org.

REVERSE GALLERY Michael Bacon paints abstracts on the back of clear vinyl and his works are viewed through the untouched side; this is his new gallery. 612 Brazos #100, 592-0219. www.michaelabacon.com.

SVT GALLERY: BEVERLY KEMP This Austin artist's work is being presented in partnership with Sterling Price-McKinney of Eponymous Gardens. *Through Feb. 19.* 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. www.salvagevanguard.org/gallery.php.

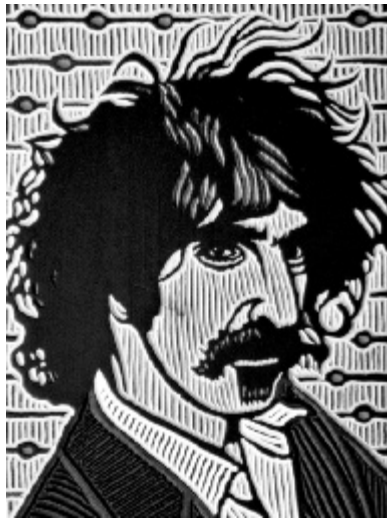
SOUTH AUSTIN MUSEUM OF POPULAR CULTURE: TRIBUTE TO BILL NARUM

This is a terrific retrospective and a memorial exhibition of work by rock art giant and Armadillo World Headquarters stalwart Bill Narum. *Through Feb. 27.* 1516-B S. Lamar, 440-8318. www.samopc.org.

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: HELMUT BARNETT

One of Austin's finest, the master of color, shape, and balance Helmut Barnett presents “Big Paintings, Little Drawings,” his fourth one-man show at this elegant venue. *Through Feb. 27.* 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: KIA NEILL The artist's new “Terrain” transforms the W&TW gallery into a subterranean grotto, with synthetic rocks, geodes, and moss crawling across and growing out of the floor, with fabricated stalagmites and unusual geological forms surrounding visitors. Thinking about seeing it? We must say: Cave into the urge. *Through Feb. 27.* 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.



THE COLORFUL WOODCUT PORTRAITURE OF LISA BRAWN GLORIFIES THE WALLS OF YARD DOG FOLK ART THIS WEEKEND.

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.

RUSSELLS BAKERY: NORMAN GARRETT The photographer's documentation of brides and their weddings is presented in “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Altar.” 1601 W. 38th, 619-9633. www.thanksforthememories.biz.

EASTSIDE BOOKS Currently showing works by Patrick King, Ramon Lozano, and John Metcalf. 2415 E. Fifth. 472-2665. www.eastsidebooksaustin.com.

CAFFE MEDICI: LANCE ROSENFELD New photography. 1101 West Lynn, 569-0432. www.rosenfieldphotography.com.

MAGNOLIA CAFE: MARTA VALLO *Through Feb. 28.* 1920 S. Congress, 445-0000. www.martavallo.com.

WESTS Artwork by Dan-Ramone Vivan Chavez, Raquel Reyes, and others. 408 Josephine.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

ATELIER 3-D: A SCULPTORS' STUDIO is a centrally located sculpture studio (featuring the work of Steve Dubov, Heather Tolleson, and Terry Wilemon) that offers ongoing classes and workshops for all skill levels; the venue's also open to artists looking for workspace and tools. Call or see the website for details. 701 Tillery, 385-1115. www.atelier3-d.com.

SHADY LADIES ALTERED ART RETREAT There will be two days of altered-art and mixed-media classes taught by nationally known teachers out Salado way this April. Featured: steampunk, altered books, shadowboxes, drawing, watercolor, clay, metal embossing, and jewelry making. See website for details. www.shadyladiesalteredart.blogspot.com.

CALL FOR ENTRIES: AVAA'S 2010 FIGURATIVE SHOW Jurors for this year's exhibition (at Austin Art Space) are UT professor Terence Grieder and TSU professor Melissa Grimes. The show's organizer is AVAA's life drawing coordinator, Laura Grimes. See website for details. Deadline: *March 1.* www.avaaonline.org.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

MAYOR'S BOOK CLUB FILM SERIES features films inspired by themes in the 2010 Mayor's Book Club selection (*Amigoland* by Oscar Casares). Next up is *Buena Vista Social Club*. *Wed., Feb. 17, 6:30pm.* Ruiz Library, 1600 Grove, 974-7400.

EL MONSTRUO: DREAD AND REDEMPTION IN MEXICO John Ross and Roberto Vargas present this reading as an offering to recognize and celebrate the revolutionary life of Xicanindio elder poet and human-rights activist Raúl Salinas who passed away two years ago on Feb. 13, 2008. *Mon., Feb. 15, 7pm.* Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885. www.resistenciabooks.com.



FREE SEX IN PUBLIC is hosted by love thumper Spike Gillespie and features a ragtag bunch of the best, brightest, and bitterest reading and performing their chocolate-covered hearts just for you. Music from Southpaw Jones and Paul Klemperer. There will be wine. *Sun., Feb. 14, 8pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

REBECA EIGEN does the stars (astrologically speaking) with her *Shadow Dance Workbook*. Bring your birth date info for some on-the-spot charting. *Sat., Feb. 13, 3pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

TEXAS NAFAS presents Austin poet Robin Cravey every week on Channel 10 and 16. See website for times. www.channelaustin.org.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

AUSTIN FICTIONISTS meet twice a month to workshop members' short stories, novel chapters, and personal essays. They're accepting new applications for membership. Send a writing sample of no more than 10,000 words with a brief statement on why you want to join to jamfab1@hotmail.com.

SISTERS IN CRIME features a panel of published authors talking about the volatile mix of mystery and romance – and maybe a little sex thrown in for good measure. *Sun., Feb. 14, 2pm.* Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.

NORTH AUSTIN KNITTERS meet weekly to knit and discuss great books. *Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

STRANGER THAN FICTION CLUB *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* by Jane Jacobs. *Wed., Feb. 17, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

LUDICROUS SPEED CLUB blazes through *The Crystal Cave* by Mary Stewart. Joel and Tommy host. *Mon., Feb. 15, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar.

GRAPHIC NOVELS CLUB *Fables: Legends in Exile* by Bill Willingham. *Wed., Feb. 17, 7pm.* Halcyon, 218 W. Fourth, 974-7400. www.cityofaustin.org/library/bookclubs.htm.

PLEASANT HILL MYSTERY CLUB *The Likeness* by Tana French. *Tue., Feb. 16, 7pm.* Pleasant Hill Branch Library, 211 E. William Cannon, 974-3940.

SPICEWOOD SPRINGS CLUB *Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson. *Tue., Feb. 16, 1:30pm.* Spicewood Springs Branch Library, 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd.

UNIVERSITY HILLS CLUB *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson. *Thu., Feb. 11, 7pm.* University Hills Library, 4721 Loyola, 929-0551.

STEEPED IN BOOKS: INFORMAL TALK AND TEA invites you to share your passionate book tastes. *Tue., Feb. 16, 2pm.* Will Hampton Branch Library, 5125 Convict Hill Rd.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

A CONVERSATION WITH CHARLES R. LARSON

focuses on his collection of African, African-American, and American Indian literature, acquired by the Harry Ransom Center in 2009. UT English professor Bernth Lindfors hosts. This program will also be webcast live. *Thu., Feb. 11, 7pm.* Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu/webcast.

OPEN MICS

NEW VENUE: *Wednesdays, 7pm.* South Austin Soul, 2801 Manchaca Rd., 551-3982.

FRIDAY NIGHT MIC for poetry, music, drama, and stories. Hosted by Bear Man Poet. *Fridays, 8-10pm.* JP's Java, 2803 San Jacinto.

BOOKWOMAN OPEN MIC features Tova Charles and Shay Harris of Texas Youth Word Collective. Hosted by Deb Akers. All welcome. Open mic poets can read poems by their favorite poets, as well as their own work. *Thu., Feb. 11, 7pm.* BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. www.ebookwoman.com.

GENUINE JOE *Thursdays, 7:30-10pm.* Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.

THE HIDEOUT is hosted by Thom Moon 10 and features Justin Wade Thompson. *Mondays, 7-10pm.* The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.hideouttheatre.com.

HOT MAMA'S OPEN MIC *Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm.* Hot Mama's Espresso Bar, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-MAMA. www.myspace.com/hotmamasespresso.

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating group of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, pmo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast. *Wednesdays, 8pm.* The Independent at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001. \$5 (21 and older). www.austinslam.com.

THE OPEN SECRET This is a new venue hosted by John Hawk, held every third Monday. *Mon., Feb. 15, 7pm.* Kick Butt at the Triangle, 4600 Guadalupe. Free.

SPOKEN & HEARD Bring words, make noise, bring yourself, make friends. American Sign Language interpreter available. Hosted by the Crew. *Sundays, 7-10pm.* Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. www.kickbuttcffee.com.

RED SALMON ARTS PRESENTS CAFE LIBRO, a bimonthly open mic series featuring Carole Metellus, whose work has appeared in *Chariot on the Limp*, a collection of Haitian-American poetry; *Affirming Flame*, an anthology by progressive Texas poets in the aftermath of September 11; the Lambda Literary Review; and others. *Fri., Feb. 12, 7pm.* Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885. www.resistenciabooks.com.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas. Hosted by David Bates. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm.* Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rmpoetryaustin.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *the almost an always an ever has been a rose white shadow presenting the absence of the scent the far fire the clear open solidity of her sky its silver ghosts limned with black falling purity of light that will not be unseen a piercing music that sews a tailor's fingers to his mouth & the singing precedes silence the liquid carrying the stone breathing claims again & writing holds memory to the miller's husk a voice of biters sugar & cheap champagne a printout not available online or on CD. Namaste. Love as best you can.*

POEM OF THE ISSUE

you are
the solace source
in all that appears
joy
wake me to the grass
wet with
certain dew
(eyes clear)
green calls me
home
where cherish
might be
– Kristi Sprinkle, “soul good”

film listings



The Last Station

D: Michael Hoffman; with Christopher Plummer, James McAvoy, Helen Mirren, Paul Giamatti, Anne-Marie Duff, Kerry Condon. (R, 112 min.)

“Practice what you preach” is a saying that has undone many an ideologue, and Leo Tolstoy, one of the world’s great writers and thinkers, struggled with his own appetites, which ran counter to a publicly disseminated personal philosophy that pushed for

celibacy, passive resistance, and a renunciation of property and wealth. Writer/director Hoffman’s nimble, considerable *The Last Station* (adapted from Jay Parini’s novel of the same name) dramatizes Tolstoy’s end days, when those appetites are snuffing out, with not insignificant flare-ups. These are not calm times – more war than peace – with Tolstoy (Plummer) in no-man’s-land between warring factions: His high-strung wife, Sofya (Mirren), rails on and on about his radical views, while his literary executor, Chertkov (Giamatti), wants him to sign away the rights to his catalog. “Your works are the birthright of the Russian people,” Chertkov hisses. Yes, he’s a hisser – also a conniver, a sniveler, and a bemoaner. If there’s a complaint to be made about Hoffman’s otherwise large-hearted film, it is that Chertkov is treated too uncharitably: Everyone else is forgiven their foibles and gripes; why not the man who founded a commune of people, the Tolstoyans, devoted to putting Tolstoy’s ideals into action? Young Bulgakov (McAvoy) is one of those Tolstoyans, a nervous-nelly of one, eager to loudly declare his credentials as a vegetarian virgin. At the film’s beginning, Chertkov hand-selects Bulgakov to be the master’s new secretary: There’s a stunning shot in

which Bulgakov, a moist-eyed dreamer en route to meet Tolstoy, looks skyward, as if he just might burst from gladness and good fortune. Reality soon sets in, though, as Bulgakov comes to realize he’s a pawn of Sofya and Chertkov – both silkily try to enlist him as a spy – and that his hero, Tolstoy, is mere man, made of flesh and not at all keen to forgo the pleasures afforded said flesh. Plummer, fully owning his 80 years, plays up

Tolstoy’s lustiness; he and Mirren engage in some barnyard-inspired hanky-panky – he’s big rooster, she’s little chicken – that is no less than the silliest, sexiest spot of foreplay I’ve seen in ages. These early scenes are a romping delight; Mirren, especially, is divine as a diva whiplashing from soft coo to acid tongue. But as the schism between Tolstoy’s loved ones widens, Hoffman’s film stealthily deepens, the transition from playfulness to crepuscular contemplation eased by Sergey Yevtushenko’s accomplished score. *The Last Station* would have satisfied alone as a witty, manic lark, but as it moves toward the titular railway station, the film unfurls into so much more – a work of compassion, modulated mournfulness, and unchecked joy.

– Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Arbor



new reviews

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE

D: Pierre Morel; with John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Kasia Smutniak, Richard Durden. (R, 92 min.)

Anyone suffering from the dubious notion that all French people hate Americans and their gauche culture would be well-advised to take a gander at the films of director Morel (*District 13*, *Taken*) and his producer Luc Besson (the *Transporter* franchise, *Ong-bak*). There are few greater proponents of the American form of mindless film violence and flash-without-substance storytelling. A clear example in *From Paris With Love* comes midway into the film’s admittedly well-choreographed mayhem as the gun-crazy operative Charlie Wax (Travolta) exasperatedly explains to his new partner, James Reece (Rhys Meyers), the reasons for all the corpses piling up around them: “It’s about terrorists,” Wax declares, ending Reece’s illusion they’re chasing cocaine traffickers. Nothing more than those three words needs to be said; the film, with no further explanation of motives, nationalities, beliefs, or backstories, suddenly gets a free pass into the kill-or-be-killed zone. It’s primary and elemental and has none of that French philosophical dross mucking up the film’s astronomical body count. For Travolta, the role again shows his daring as a shape-shifting physical commodity (*Hairspray* and *Battlefield Earth* are other prime examples) and his acquiescence to portraying over-the-top wack jobs (*The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3*, *Swordfish*). His Wax is a U.S. government black-ops guy who has a shaved head, a love of firearms, a taste for coke and women, and professional infallibility. On his Paris mission, he is teamed with Reece, an American embassy functionary who longs for more responsibilities and excitement. At first it seems Reece will be nothing but a glorified errand boy, tailing behind Wax while lugging around a Chinese vase full of evidential cocaine, but by movie’s end even he would probably thrill to the sight of Wax taking aim with a bazooka while hanging out of the window of a fast-moving vehicle. The actors make a good duo: Rhys Meyers with a methodical steadiness and Travolta with the character’s maniacal unpredictability. *From Paris With Love* is their show all the way. The film is so self-referencing, however, that a running gag about Wax/Travolta craving a “royale with cheese” moves the film’s energy backward rather than forward. Perhaps instead it was a reference to the film’s nutritional value rather than its screen precedents.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

MY NAME IS KHAN

D: Karan Johar; with Shahrukh Khan, Kajol, Jimmy Shergill, Tanay Chheda. (PG-13, 160 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. A child with Asperger’s syndrome grows up in Mumbai and lives as an adult in San Francisco, where he falls in love, marries, and begins a

successful business until the events of 9/11 separate the couple and he must embark on a journey to win her back. For a change, this Bollywood film has an American distributor stateside: Fox Searchlight, the company that took a chance on *Slumdog Millionaire*. Nevertheless, Searchlight chose not to screen this film for press. – Marjorie Baumgarten Tinseltown South

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF

D: Chris Columbus; with Logan Lerman, Brandon T. Jackson, Alexandra Daddario, Jake Abel, Sean Bean, Pierce Brosnan, Steve Coogan, Rosario Dawson, Melina Kanakaredes, Catherine Keener, Kevin McKidd, Joe Pantoliano, Uma Thurman. (PG, 119 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. A new kids’ franchise hopes to take flight with this first movie based on Rick Riordan’s book series. In it, a teenager’s Greek mythology book come to life and thrusts him into an adventure to recover Zeus’ stolen lightning bolt and discover the truth behind his mother’s disappearance.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

PREACHER’S KID

D: Stan Foster; with LeToya Luckett, Durrell “Tank” Babb, Clifton Powell, Sharif Atkins. (PG-13, 110 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. A minister’s daughter wants to experience more of life, so she runs away with an actor appearing in a touring gospel play. It’s the story of the prodigal daughter and was not screened for press.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

Millennium, Tinseltown South

SAINT JOHN OF LAS VEGAS

D: Hue Rhodes; with Steve Buscemi, Roman Malco, Sarah Silverman, Peter Dinklage, Emmanuelle Chriqui, Tim Blake Nelson, John Cho, Jesse Garcia. (R, 85 min.)

Beware the gambler, and beware your own luck should you decide to plop down any money on this loser. Although the film sounds like a sure bet on paper, *Saint John of Las Vegas* sadly comes up solid snake eyes. Written and directed by first-timer Rhodes, this comedy evidences little narrative logic or coherence, zero chemistry among the actors, and most sinfully, a scarcity of genuine humor. Beloved character actor Buscemi here takes the lead as the film’s title character, a casting decision that at first causes elation but only leads to massive disappointment as we watch a great actor steadily spin his wheels in monotony. The problem lies not with his performance per se, but rather the essential dislikability of the character and his inability to grow. John is a compulsive gambler who left Las Vegas when his luck ran out, then drove as far as his car would take him and thereby settled in Albuquerque. All this happened prior to the start of this film and is told to us via John’s ubiquitous voiceover. Now John works in a cubicle as a claims adjuster for an auto insurance company but still can’t resist the scratch-off lotto cards at the local convenience stores. The highlight of his day comes from joshing with his cubicle neighbor Jill (Silverman), who dresses like Lily Tomlin’s Ernestine the telephone operator and has a fetish for all things yellow and smiley-faced.

When John asks his boss (Dinklage) for a raise, he is instead rewarded with a bump up to the fraud-investigation division. Partnered with Virgil (Malco of *Weeds*), the pair is sent to Las Vegas to look into the injury claim of a stripper named Tasty D Lite (Chriqui). They also tangle with nudists at an illegal nature compound and a self-immolating carnival geek called the Flame Lord (Cho). I know, I know; it does sound essentially decent. Yet Rhodes has no sense of how to corral these elements into a blended story. Neither can he locate the humor in his odd-couple pairings and the hangdog expression on Buscemi's face, nor the comedic tension in some of his downright bizarre setups. In addition to Buscemi, others attached to the film with producing credits include Rhodes' NYU professor Spike Lee and actor Stanley Tucci. Somebody among the film's 11 listed producers should have spoken up before *Saint John of Vegas* hit theatre screens. You watch and wait for this underachieving film to ignite, then grow more and more exasperated as you witness its many misfires. Theoretically, *Saint John of Vegas* may look good from a distance, but when seen up close it's only a house of cards. — Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Arbor

VALENTINE'S DAY D: Garry Marshall; with Jessica Alba, Jessica Biel, Bradley Cooper, Eric Dane, Patrick Dempsey, Hector Elizondo, Jamie Foxx, Jennifer Garner, Topher Grace, Anne Hathaway, Ashton Kutcher, Queen Latifah, Taylor Lautner, George Lopez, Shirley MacLaine, Emma Roberts, Julia Roberts, Taylor Swift. (PG-13, 125 min.)

Three-quarters through *Valentine's Day*, director Marshall pops in for a seconds-long cameo as a mariachi band player. At the sneak screening, you could feel a little ripple go through the crowd – sort of a “ha!” coupled with an “aww!” But when I scrolled through Marshall's credits after the film, I couldn't figure out what the crowd – sentimental bastards, all of us – were smiling at: *Have we not seen his IMDb rapsheet?* Yes, yes, we'll always have Marshall's *Happy Days* and *Laverne & Shirley*, even *Pretty Woman*, a film that has aged as poorly as I imagine your average Hollywood Boulevard hooker does – those *not* rescued by a pin-striped Prince Charming, that is. But what has Marshall done for us in the 20 years since? *Raising Helen*. *The Other Sister*. *Exit to Eden*. *Valentine's Day* never embarrasses in the way those film do, but that's not much of a recommendation, is it? Aggressively unfunny and unromantic, *Valentine's Day's* chief concern appears to have been the corralling of its cast of a thousand stars; it

seems far less attention was paid to what to do with that cast once assembled. There are so many boldfaced names that each is reduced to minutelong blips here and there; there's no room for character development, so the filmmakers must hook us in via the extraordinariness of the action or the enduring appeal of the actor. On the first count, *Valentine's Day* is a big bust: Screenwriter Katherine Fugate (*The Prince & Me*) invents one unenlightened scenario after another, then crisscrosses them in ways that are corny, not clever. (That the film's one gay relationship exists for “gotcha!” purposing alone indicates how unengaged with the real world Fugate's script is.) There are standouts in the cast – Hathaway plays way against type as a glammy poetess moonlighting as a phone-sex operator, while the likable Kutcher and Garner, as best friends ostensibly in love with other people, emerge as the only real relationship worth following. Is there fleeting entertainment in watching so many stars share the screen? Maybe, but what's the use of a supergroup if the music it puts out is sucky? — Kimberley Jones

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE WOLFMAN D: Joe Johnston; with Benicio Del Toro, Anthony Hopkins, Emily Blunt, Hugo Weaving, Geraldine Chaplin, Art Malik, Malcolm Scates, David Sterne. (R, 102 min.)

You have to wonder if director Johnston doesn't feel a little bit like *The Wolfman's* hirsute lycanthrope, the moon-bedeveled Lawrence Talbot. While not under a curse like Lon Chaney Jr. in Universal's stone-classic 1941 original (nor suffering from the contraction of the former's three-word title into two), Talbot arrives onscreen looking as existentially doomed as a man can be while still appearing to share a gene pool with Benicio Del Toro. Why might Johnston feel a kinship with his toothy protagonist? The story behind the production of this remake is nearly as bleak as the film script itself, and certainly more riveting. Universal announced the big-budget remake in 2006 and then signed Mark Romanek (best known as the director of the moody *One Hour Photo* and the moodier *Morrissey: ¡Oye Estaban!*) to helm the project in February 2007, only to lose him to the dreaded “creative differences” in January 2008. Reports differ as to what state of completion the film was in when its director exited. What is known is that the studio cast about for

a replacement and ended up with Johnston, an underrated filmmaker with a more than passing familiarity with genre pictures (*The Rocketeer*, *Jumanji*). They gave him three weeks to bone up on the state of the film and retool the script – credited to Andrew Kevin Walker and David Self – and let go. The Johnston production, too, was troubled with many reshoots, added effects, and a release date that wouldn't sit still. But – finally! – *The Wolfman* has come padding into theatres, and Johnston has clearly done his best with a difficult cinematic situation. As for Universal's monstrous legacy, this isn't the utter disaster the misguided *Van Helsing* was, but neither is it the stealthy, Hammer-esque dark night of the soulless that it was clearly intended to be. Despite his wolfish mien, Del Toro, as the soon-to-be wolfman, is miscast. He tries mightily to use his bearish-yet-lithe frame to increase both the character's acute mental and physical anguish, but everything following the character's return to his ancestral home and his reuniting with his equally dire pater-



**“THE MOST OVERWHELMINGLY ROMANTIC”
“MOVIE SINCE ‘THE NOTEBOOK.’”**

Mark S. Allen, CBS/CW

“A true blue American love story.”

Greg Russell, MOVIE SHOW PLUS



NOW PLAYING

CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES
SORRY, NO PASSES ACCEPTED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT

SONY
make.believe

openings & ratings

The Last Station (R)

My Name Is Khan (PG-13)

Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG)

- ★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be
- ★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless
- ★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

Preacher's Kid (PG-13)

Saint John of Las Vegas (R)

Valentine's Day (PG-13)

The Wolfman (R)

- ★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots
- ★ Poor, without any saving graces
- La bomba

showtimes

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12 – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.
ALGA & AMO's Art & Copy: Wed, 7:00pm
Terror Tuesday: *Crawlspace*: 10:15pm
aGLIFF: *Criminal Lovers*: Sun, 1:00pm
Girlie Night: *Cruel Intentions*: Tue, 7:00pm
Valentine's Feast: *Gone With the Wind*: Sun, 6:00pm
Action Pack: Love Bites: *The Power Ballad Sing-Along*: Sun, 9:30pm; Thu (2/18), 10:30pm
Mardi Gras Masquerade Sexy Pop Sing-Along: Tue, 9:45pm
Moulin Rouge Sing-Along: Thu (2/18), 7:00pm
Saved by the Bell Party: Wed, 9:30pm
Music Monday: Soul Power: Mon, 9:45pm
Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2010: Mon, 7:00pm
Weird Wednesday: *Terminal Island*: Wed, 12mid
Master Pancake: *Transformers*: Fri-Sat, 7:00, 10:00
The Wolfman: Fri, 3:45, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30; Sat, 1:00, 2:00, 3:45, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30; Sun, 2:00, 3:45, 6:35, 10:45; Mon, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15; Tue, 4:30, 7:20; Wed-Thu (2/18), 4:30, 7:20, 10:15

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK
13729 Research, 219-5408.
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Sat, 12:15, 4:00, 8:00; Sun-Wed, 12:00, 4:00, 8:00; Thu (2/18), 4:00, 8:00
The Book of Eli: Fri-Sun, 3:40, 9:30; Mon, 9:30pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 10:00, 7:00, 10:00
Crazy Heart: 12:40, 3:50, 6:45, 9:45
***Dear John:** 1:15, 4:20, 7:30, 10:20
Edge of Darkness: Fri-Sat, 12:50, 4:10, 7:15, 10:30; Sun, 12:50, 4:10, 10:30; Mon, 12:50, 4:10, 7:15, 10:30; Tue, 12:50, 4:10, 10:30; Wed-Thu (2/18), 12:50, 4:10, 7:15, 10:30
TV @ the Alamo: Lost: Tue, 8:00pm
Up in the Air: Fri-Sun, 12:10, 6:30; Mon, 12:10pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 12:10, 6:30
***Valentine's Day:** 12:20, 3:30, 7:00, 10:10
***The Wolfman:** Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 2:35, 5:25, 8:15, 11:05pm; Sun, 12:30, 3:20, 7:45, 10:45; Mon, 11:45am, 2:35, 5:25, 8:15, 11:05pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:45, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Sat, 11:04am, 3:00, 7:00, 10:20pm; Sun, 11:05am, 3:00, 7:00, 10:00pm; Mon, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30; Tue, 11:00am, 3:00, 7:00, 9:40pm; Wed, 3:30, 7:00, 10:35; Thu (2/18), 3:15, 7:00, 10:20
Valentine's Feast: *Charade*: Sun, 7:00pm
Crazy Heart: Fri, 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40; Sat, 4:05, 6:50, 9:40; Sun, 1:05, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40; Mon, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40; Tue, 1:00, 3:50, 7:00, 10:20; Wed, 3:50, 7:05, 9:50; Thu (2/18), 3:50, 6:50, 9:40
From Paris With Love: Fri, 11:35am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00pm; Sat, 11:05am, 1:35, 4:20, 7:20, 9:55pm; Sun, 11:35am, 2:10, 4:25, 7:30, 9:55pm; Mon, 4:25, 7:20, 10:00; Tue, 11:55am, 2:25, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00pm; Wed-Thu (2/18), 4:25, 7:20, 10:00
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus: Fri-Sat, 10:35pm; Sun, 10:30pm; Mon-Tue, 10:35pm; Wed, 10:40pm; Thu (2/18), 10:35pm
TV @ the Alamo: Lost: Tue, 10:00pm
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: *The Lightning Thief*: Fri, 11:00am, 12:05, 3:10, 4:35, 9:45pm; Sat, 11:00am, 12:05, 3:10, 4:40, 9:45pm; Sun, 12:15, 1:15, 3:25, 9:45; Mon, 3:25, 6:45, 9:45; Tue, 12:15, 3:25, 6:40, 9:50; Wed, 4:00, 6:45, 10:30; Thu (2/18), 3:25, 6:45, 9:45
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: *The Lightning Thief With Intergalactic Nemesis*: Fri-Sun, 6:30pm
Sherlock Holmes: Fri-Mon, 10:15pm; Wed, 9:45pm; Thu (2/18), 10:15pm
A Single Man: Fri, 12:35, 3:10; Sat, 7:25pm; Sun, 1:45, 4:35; Mon, 4:45pm; Tue, 1:15, 4:00; Wed, 3:55pm; Thu (2/18), 4:45pm
Spirit of the Marathon: Sat, 1:00, 4:00
AFS: *Three Monkeys*: Tue, 7:00pm
Up in the Air: Fri, 1:50, 7:35; Sat, 7:35pm; Sun, 4:10, 7:35; Mon, 4:30, 7:30; Tue, 11:05am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:35pm; Wed, 4:05pm; Thu (2/18), 4:30, 7:35

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE
2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090. Tuesday matinee Baby Day shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.
Valentine's Feast: *Amélie*: Sun, 7:00pm
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Sat, 11:10am, 3:20, 6:00, 10:25pm; Sun, 11:55am, 3:20, 10:25pm; Mon, 3:10, 6:45, 10:05; Tue, 12:10, 3:10, 6:45, 10:05; Wed-Thu (2/18), 3:10, 6:45, 10:05
***Dear John:** Fri-Sat, 12:45, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30; Sun, 12:45, 4:30, 7:00, 10:10; Mon, 4:15, 7:10, 10:15; Tue, 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 10:15; Wed-Thu (2/18), 4:15, 7:10, 10:15
Edge of Darkness: Fri-Sun, 1:30, 2:50, 7:30; Mon, 4:25, 7:15; Tue, 1:30, 4:25, 7:15; Wed-Thu (2/18), 4:25, 7:15
TV @ the Alamo: Lost: Tue, 10:00pm
Action Pack: Love Bites: *The Power Ballad Sing-Along*: Fri, noon
Moulin Rouge Sing-Along: Wed, 10:00pm
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
***Valentine's Day:** Fri-Sun, 12:10, 3:45, 7:15, 9:45, 10:15; Mon, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55; Tue, 12:00, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55; Wed-Thu (2/18), 3:45, 7:00, 9:55
Youth in Revolt: Mon, 10:00pm; Thu (2/18), 10:00pm

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS
9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742.
Discounts daily before 6pm and all day Wednesdays.
Broken Embraces: 12:10, 9:30
Crazy Heart: 12:50, 3:10, 4:10, 6:40, 7:30, 10:10
An Education: 12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55
The Last Station: 11:45am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15pm
Saint John of Las Vegas: 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:05
A Single Man: 11:50am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40pm
Up in the Air: 12:30, 3:20, 7:00, 9:45
The Young Victoria: 12:40, 4:20, 6:50, 9:50

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.
***Avatar (3-D):** 11:30am, 3:05, 6:40, 10:15pm
The Blind Side: Fri-Mon, 1:00am, 1:10, 4:05, 7:10, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:10, 4:05, 7:10, 10:10
The Book of Eli: Fri-Mon, 7:55, 10:45; Tue-Wed, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:50, 7:55, 10:45pm; Thu (2/18), 11:40am, 5:50, 10:45pm
Crazy Heart (closed captioned and descriptive video): Fri-Mon, 11:25am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 11:35am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30pm
Dear John: Fri-Sun, 9:30am, 12:05, 2:55, 5:35, 8:15, 10:55pm; Mon, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 11:25am, 1:55, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00pm
Edge of Darkness: Fri-Mon, 10:55am, 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20pm; Tue-Wed, 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20; Thu (2/18), 2:20, 7:55

From Paris With Love: Fri-Sun, 10:50am, 1:15, 3:40, 6:05, 8:30, 10:50pm; Mon, 10:50am, 1:15, 3:40, 6:05, 8:25, 10:50pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:15, 3:40, 6:05, 8:25, 10:50
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: *The Lightning Thief*: Fri-Mon, 10:30am, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
Tooth Fairy: Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40pm; Mon, 10:00am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:40, 8:10pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 12:30, 3:00, 5:40, 8:10
Valentine's Day: Fri-Mon, 9:35am, 10:45, 12:35, 1:40, 3:35, 4:35, 6:30, 7:30, 9:25, 10:25pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 11:50am, 1:40, 3:35, 4:35, 6:30, 7:30, 9:25, 10:25pm
When in Rome: Fri-Sun, 9:50am, 12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45pm; Mon, 9:50am, 12:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 12:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45
The Wolfman: Fri-Mon, 9:45am, 11:15, 12:15, 1:50, 2:50, 4:20, 5:25, 6:50, 8:00, 9:35, 10:35pm; Tue, 12:15, 1:50, 2:50, 4:20, 5:25, 6:50, 9:35, 10:35; Wed-Thu (2/18), 12:15, 1:50, 2:50, 4:20, 5:25, 6:50, 8:00, 9:35, 10:35

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Mon, 11:30am, 3:00, 6:40, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 3:00, 6:40, 10:10
The Book of Eli: Fri-Mon, 11:10am, 4:40, 10:15pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 4:40, 10:15
***Crazy Heart:** Fri-Mon, 10:45am, 1:20, 4:15, 6:50, 9:40pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:20, 4:15, 6:50, 9:40
***Dear John:** Fri-Mon, 11:20am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:15, 10:00pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 2:05, 4:45, 7:15, 10:00
Edge of Darkness: 1:45, 7:20
***From Paris With Love:** Fri-Mon, 10:25am, 1:00, 3:20, 5:45, 8:00, 10:20pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:00, 3:20, 5:45, 8:00, 10:20
***Percy Jackson & the Olympians: *The Lightning Thief*:** Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 7:50, 9:30, 10:40pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 7:50, 9:30, 10:40
Tooth Fairy: Fri-Mon, 10:50am, 1:25, 4:40, 6:25, 9:00pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:25, 4:40, 6:25, 9:00
***Valentine's Day:** Fri-Mon, 10:40am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
When in Rome: Fri-Mon, 11:40am, 1:50, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:50, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10
***The Wolfman:** Fri-Mon, 10:30am, 12:00, 1:15, 2:50, 4:10, 5:40, 7:00, 8:30, 9:50pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:15, 2:50, 4:10, 5:40, 7:00, 8:30, 9:50

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERY 14
12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.
Alvin and the Chipmunks: *The Squeakquel*: Fri-Mon, 11:15am, 1:45, 4:15pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:45, 4:15
***Avatar (3-D):** 12:40, 4:20, 7:55
The Blind Side: Fri-Mon, 11:45am, 2:55, 6:35, 9:35pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 2:55, 6:35, 9:35
***Crazy Heart:** 12:50, 3:30, 6:50, 9:50
***Dear John:** Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:35, 10:15pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:40, 4:40, 7:35, 10:15
Edge of Darkness: 1:35, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05
From Paris With Love: Fri-Mon, 11:30am, 1:40, 4:50, 7:30, 9:55pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:40, 4:50, 7:30, 9:55
***Percy Jackson & the Olympians: *The Lightning Thief*:** Fri-Mon, 11:20am, 12:45, 2:20, 3:45, 5:20, 6:45, 8:10, 9:45pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 12:45, 2:20, 3:45, 5:20, 6:45, 8:10, 9:45
Sherlock Holmes: 7:05, 10:00
Tooth Fairy: Fri-Mon, 11:35am, 2:15, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 2:15, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20
***Valentine's Day:** Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:00, 9:30pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:00, 9:30
When in Rome: Fri-Mon, 11:05am, 1:25, 4:05, 6:55, 9:20pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:25, 4:05, 6:55, 9:20
***The Wolfman:** Fri-Mon, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:45, 7:25, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:50, 4:45, 7:25, 10:10

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK
2120 N. Mays, Round Rock, 512/388-2848.
Discounts daily before 5pm.
Armored: 8:00, 10:15
Did You Hear About the Morgans?: Fri-Mon, 11:20am, 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10
Fantastic Mr. Fox: Fri-Mon, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Planet 51: Fri-Mon, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:45, 10:00pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 2:15, 4:45, 7:45, 10:00
The Princess and the Frog: Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 12:00, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
The Twilight Saga: *New Moon*: Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:45, 8:15, 9:40pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:45, 8:15, 9:40
2012: Fri-Mon, 11:05am, 2:20, 5:00, 9:20pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 2:30, 6:00, 9:20

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, Round Rock, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri, 2:45, 6:30, 10:05; Sat, 11:00am, 2:45, 6:30, 10:05pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 2:45, 6:30, 10:05
The Blind Side: Fri, 4:00, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 9:50am, 4:00, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 4:00, 10:10
The Book of Eli: 1:15, 7:50
***Crazy Heart:** Fri, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15; Sat-Mon, 10:40am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
***Dear John:** Fri, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Mon, 10:30am, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40
Edge of Darkness: Fri, 4:20, 10:35; Sat, 10:00am, 10:50am, 4:20, 10:35pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 4:20, 10:35
***From Paris With Love:** Fri, 2:15, 5:00, 8:00, 10:25; Sat-Mon, 11:20am, 2:15, 5:00, 8:00, 10:25pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 2:15, 5:00, 8:00, 10:25
***Percy Jackson & the Olympians: *The Lightning Thief*:** Fri, 1:00, 2:30, 3:50, 5:20, 6:40, 8:10, 9:30; Sat-Mon, 10:10am, 11:40, 1:00, 2:30, 3:50, 5:20, 6:40, 8:10, 9:30pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:00, 2:30, 3:50, 5:20, 6:40, 8:10, 9:30
Sherlock Holmes: 12:45, 7:10
Tooth Fairy: Fri, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20; Sat-Mon, 11:50am, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20
***Valentine's Day:** Fri, 12:40, 2:00, 3:30, 4:50, 6:20, 7:40, 9:10, 10:30; Sat-Mon, 9:45am, 11:10, 12:40, 2:00, 3:30, 4:50, 6:20, 7:40, 9:10, 10:30pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 12:40, 2:00, 3:30, 4:50, 6:20, 7:40, 9:10, 10:30
When in Rome: Fri, 12:50, 3:40, 6:45, 9:20; Sat-Mon, 10:15am, 12:50, 3:40, 6:45, 9:20pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 12:50, 3:40, 6:45, 9:20
***The Wolfman:** Fri, 1:40, 3:10, 4:30, 6:00, 7:20, 8:40, 10:00; Sat-Mon, 9:40am, 10:50, 12:20, 1:40, 3:10, 4:30, 6:00, 7:20, 8:40, 10:00pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:40, 3:10, 4:30, 6:00, 7:20, 8:40, 10:00

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS
9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.
Alvin and the Chipmunks: *The Squeakquel*: Fri-Mon, 10:20am, 12:30, 2:50, 5:15pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 12:30, 2:50, 5:15
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Mon, 10:10am, 2:00, 5:40, 9:35pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 2:00, 5:40, 9:35
The Book of Eli: 7:35, 10:25
***Dear John:** Fri-Mon, 10:15am, 11:30, 1:05, 2:40, 3:50, 5:20, 6:35, 8:15, 9:20pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:05, 2:40, 3:50, 5:20, 6:35, 8:15, 9:20
Edge of Darkness: Fri-Mon, 10:45am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
***From Paris With Love:** Fri-Mon, 11:15am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
Legion: Fri-Mon, 10:30am, 4:15, 10:05pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 4:15, 10:05
***Percy Jackson & the Olympians: *The Lightning Thief*:** Fri-Mon, 10:25am, 12:25, 1:25, 3:15, 4:20, 6:15, 7:20, 9:05, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 12:25, 1:25, 3:15, 4:20, 6:15, 7:20, 9:05, 10:10
Sherlock Holmes: 1:00, 7:10
Tooth Fairy: Fri-Mon, 10:05am, 1:30, 4:05, 6:45, 9:25pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 1:30, 4:05, 6:45, 9:25
***Valentine's Day:** Fri-Sun, 10:40am, 12:45, 1:45, 3:45, 4:50, 6:40, 7:45, 9:40, 10:35pm; Mon, 10:40am, 12:45, 1:45, 3:45, 4:50, 6:40, 7:45, 9:40pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 12:45, 1:45, 3:45, 4:50, 6:40, 7:45, 9:40pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 12:45, 1:45, 3:45, 4:50, 6:40, 7:45, 9:40pm
***The Wolfman:** Fri-Mon, 10:00am, 11:00, 12:35, 1:35, 3:10, 4:10, 5:45, 6:20, 8:20, 9:30pm; Tue-Thu (2/18), 12:35, 1:35, 3:10, 4:10, 5:45, 6:20, 8:20, 9:30

DOBIE THEATRE 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.
An Education: Fri, 7:30pm; Sat-Mon, 2:15, 7:30; Tue-Thu (2/18), 7:30pm
Fantastic Mr. Fox: Fri, 5:15, 10:00; Sat-Mon, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:00; Tue-Wed, 7:45, 10:00; Thu (2/18), 10:00pm
The Hurt Locker: Fri, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Mon, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50; Tue-Thu (2/18), 7:00, 9:50
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus: Fri-Mon, 4:45, 9:40; Tue-Thu (2/18), 9:40pm
Valentine's Day: Fri, 4:30, 7:15, 10:10; Sat-Mon, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:10; Tue-Thu (2/18), 7:15, 10:10

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305. No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without an adult.
***Avatar (3-D):** 1:00, 4:15, 7:30
The Book of Eli: 12:00pm
Dear John: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30, 11:45; Sun-Thu (2/18), 12:00, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30
From Paris With Love: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20, 11:40; Sun-Thu (2/18), 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
Legion: Fri-Sat, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30, 11:45; Sun-Thu (2/18), 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: *The Lightning Thief*: Fri-Sat, 1:00, 4:40, 7:00, 9:55, 11:45; Sun-Thu (2/18), 1:00, 4:40, 7:00, 9:55
Valentine's Day: Fri-Sat, 1:45, 2:00, 4:25, 4:40, 7:05, 7:30, 9:45, 11:00; Sun-Thu (2/18), 1:45, 2:00, 4:25, 4:40, 7:05, 7:30, 9:45
The Wolfman: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:20, 2:40, 4:40, 5:00, 7:00, 7:20, 9:20, 9:40, 11:50; Sun-Thu (2/18), 12:00, 2:20, 2:40, 4:40, 5:00, 7:00, 7:20, 9:20, 9:40

GATEWAY THEATRE 9700 Stonelake, between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700-3808. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
***Avatar (3-D):** Fri, Tue, 11:50am, 12:25, 3:30, 4:00, 6:55, 7:25, 10:15pm; Wed-Thu (2/18), 11:50am, 12:25, 3:30, 4:00, 6:55, 10:15pm
The Book of Eli: 12:50, 7:05
NCM Fathom: *Celine: Through the Eyes of the World*: Wed-Thu (2/18), 7:30pm
Dear John: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20
Edge of Darkness: 11:35am, 2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:25pm
From Paris With Love: 11:00am, 2:25, 5:30, 7:55, 10:05pm
It's Complicated: 1:50, 7:20
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: *The Lightning Thief*: Fri-Tue, 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30pm; Wed, 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30; Thu (2/18), 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30pm
Sherlock Holmes: 3:50, 9:50
***Valentine's Day:** 11:30am, 12:00, 2:10, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45pm
When in Rome: 11:25am, 4:35, 10:00pm
***The Wolfman:** 11:55am, 12:30, 2:20, 2:55, 4:45, 5:20, 7:45, 8:15, 10:10, 10:40pm</

★ AVATAR D: James Cameron; with Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Michelle Rodriguez, Giovanni Ribisi, Joel David Moore, CCH Pounder, Wes Studi, Laz Alonso. (PG-13, 162 min.)

At 162 minutes and a cost of somewhere between \$250 million and \$300 million, Cameron's ne plus ultra of futuristic mechanized mayhem and seamless CGI trickery is both a cinematically spectacular slab of virtually nonstop action and an unmistakable diatribe against corporatized American imperialism. There are the usual muscled-up boys (and equally powerful girls) with big-bang toys, crying havoc and letting slip the dogs of war, to be sure, but at its heart this mammoth film is ... a chick flick. Despite a script that at times leaves its most interesting characters delivering some of the most banal lines in a Cameron film thus far, somehow it all holds together. As a purely visual experience, it's like nothing you've ever seen before: a lush, sexy, primal world created entirely by Cameron's legions of CGI masters. *Avatar* is thrilling, lovely, sad, and explosive in all the right ways. (12/18/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, IMAX Theatre, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE BLIND SIDE D: John Lee Hancock; with Sandra Bullock, Quinton Aaron, Tim McGraw, Kathy Bates, Jae Head, Lily Collins, Ray McKinnon, Kim Dickens. (PG-13, 126 min.)

Writer/director Hancock (*The Rookie*) overcomes most of the built-in problems inherent to inspirational sports dramas. Also in the film's plus column are two standout performances: Aaron, as the sweet-mannered but largely uncommunicative football player Michael (Aaron does some very subtle body work, using the way he carries his heft as an emotional signpost), and Bullock, as the prickly, straight-talking Memphis socialite who welcomes Michael into her home and eventually makes him a part of the family. This is a dream role for Bullock – finally, a job that requires her to be adult, tart, and smart, all at once – and she makes good use of it. It's not an altogether convincing portrait, but it is an entertaining, even moving one, and the forcefulness of her presence goes a long way in pulling the film back from the brink of cuddliness. (11/20/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

THE BOOK OF ELI D: Allen Hughes, Albert Hughes; with Denzel Washington, Gary Oldman, Mila Kunis, Ray Stevenson, Jennifer Beals, Evan Jones, Michael Gambon, Frances de la Tour, Tom Waits, Malcolm McDowell. (R, 118 min.)

Like its titular protagonist (a deadly smooth Washington), *The Book of Eli* early on sets a course and never deviates from its core mission of being an action-packed, end-of-days road movie. A war has happened some 30 years prior and sucked the color out of the sky, most of the people from the earth, and all the King James Bibles from the physical plane. The enigmatic Eli, stoic as a monk, plods along the road with his precious cargo safely tucked away inside a dusty backpack. (Everything is dusty in this film.) His occasional encounters with other human beings prove less than encouraging – bandits, cannibals, and illiterates haunt the American interstate highway system – until he arrives at a dingy little wreck of a town overseen by Carnegie (Oldman), a teapot dictator with a yen for the Good Book. Dust ensues, but for all its grit and detritus, *The Book of Eli* is a well-polished movie. (01/22/2010) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ BROKEN EMBRACES D: Pedro Almodóvar; with Penélope Cruz, Lluís Homar, Blanca Portillo, José Luis Gómez, Rubén Ochendiano. (R, 127 min., subtitled)

Ever the lush and melodramatic filmmaker, Almodóvar appears to be adding a bit of narrative suspense to his storytelling in *Broken Embraces*. Starring his longtime muse Cruz, the film is about mad love and its consequences, but *Broken Embraces* is as much about the art of filmmaking as anything else. It takes place in the past and the present and features characters who assume different names as the story progresses. Although it's not particularly hard to follow, the story is convoluted, and the visuals are rich, color-drenched, and intricate. *Broken Embraces* is also thematically layered. At times, it looks as though the film might be the love child of Douglas Sirk and Alfred Hitchcock, with its dramatic broad strokes, iconic reds, and teasing narrative clues. In the third act, events pile on at an excessive rate and the subplots also come into greater play. The experience can be heady and delirium-provoking, but hey, that's cinema for you. (01/08/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Arbor

★ CRAZY HEART D: Scott Cooper; with Jeff Bridges, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Robert Duvall, Jack Nason, Ryan Bingham, Colin Farrell. (R, 111 min.)

You'd never guess that *Crazy Heart* is the work of a first-time filmmaker, but it is, and while the story is as old and true as the broken-down country & western balladeer at the heart of it, nearly everything about Cooper's debut feels intimate and immediate and as emotionally raw as every country song that ever mattered. That's due almost entirely to Bridges' searing and sorrowful turn as the alcohol-basted and nicotine-stained C&W has-been Bad Blake. It's a performance that's magnificent in its road-weariness, and it's a



Buena Vista Social Club

Buena Vista Social Club (1999) D: Wim Wenders; with Omara Portuondo, Rubén González, Ry Cooder, Compay Segundo, Ibrahim Ferrer. (G, 102 min.) **Austin Public Library: Mayor's Book Club '10.** This documentary is about the vanishing musical culture of Cuban stars who became famous in the Forties and Fifties while playing in the legendary Havana night club of the title. The film series is inspired by themes in the 2010 Mayor's Book Club selection, *Amigoland*, by Oscar Casares. (*) @Ruiz Library, Wednesday, 6:30pm; free.

measure of just how truly great an actor Bridges has matured into over the years. Backed (and haunted) by a blazingly fine soundtrack courtesy of T Bone Burnett and the late Stephen Bruton and a theme song (and screen appearance) by rising star Ryan Bingham, Bridges makes this sozzled and desperate ex-desperado – a cliché by any other name – as fresh and vital as one final shot at cowboy-poet redemption. (01/08/2010) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

DEAR JOHN D: Lasse Hallström; with Channing Tatum, Amanda Seyfried, Richard Jenkins, Henry Thomas, D.J. Cotrona, Cullen Moss, Scott Porter. (PG-13, 108 min.)

Based on a weepie by bestselling novelist Nicholas Sparks, *Dear John* frontloads its action to the beginning, in which reformed hooligan John (Tatum) is home in beachside South Carolina, on leave from the Army. He falls fast for Savannah (Seyfried, sweet but underused), a saintly type who is building houses with Habitat for Humanity. When John heads back overseas to finish his tour, he and Savannah swap letters, which are obvious, mewling, and frankly pretty boring; then 9/11 happens and changes the course of their romantic future. This is a muzzy picture through and through, from Hallström's softy direction and Jamie Linden's humorless script and slurry plotting to Tatum's portrayal of John. He is meant to be brooding, I think, but Tatum's vague features read more "meathead" than anguished young lover. He has to carry the film, but he's the least interesting thing going on here. (02/05/2010) – Kimberley Jones
★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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CRAZY HEART*
(12:40 3:50) 6:45 9:45

DEAR JOHN*
(1:15 4:20) 7:30 10:20

EDGE of DARKNESS
(12:50 4:10) 7:15 10:30

THE BOOK OF ELI
(3:40) 9:30

UP IN THE AIR
(12:10) 6:30

AVATAR (12:15 4:00) 8:00

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VALENTINE'S DAY (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 1:45 2:00 4:25 4:40 7:05 7:30 9:45 11:00
Sun. - Thu. 1:45 2:00 4:25 4:40 7:05 7:30 9:45

THE WOLFMAN (R) Fri. & Sat. 12:00 2:20 4:40 5:00 7:00 7:20 9:20 9:40 11:50
Sun. - Thu. 12:00 2:20 4:40 5:00 7:00 7:20 9:20 9:40

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF (PG) Fri. & Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:10 9:55 11:45
Sun. - Thu. 1:00 4:00 7:10 9:55

AVATAR 3D (PG-13) Fri. - Thu. 1:00 4:15 7:30

DEAR JOHN (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:00 2:15 4:40 7:05 9:30 11:45
Sun. - Thu. 12:00 2:15 4:40 7:05 9:30

LEGION (R) Fri. & Sat. 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30 11:45
Sun. - Thu. 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30

THE BOOK OF ELI (R) Fri. - Thu. 12:00

We will be playing Indian Films this week yet to be announced.
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Soul Power

Soul Power (2009) D: Jeffrey Levy-Hinte. (PG-13, 93 min.) **Music Monday.** The “Rumble in the Jungle” was the main event, but this concert in the Congo was a hell of an undercard. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Monday, 9:45pm.

EDGE OF DARKNESS D: Martin Campbell; with Mel Gibson, Bojana Novakovic, Shawn Roberts. (R, 117 min.)

What a bizarre choice of film for a comeback this is. An older, weaker Mad Mel plays Thomas Craven, a Boston police detective who reunites with his college-age daughter, Emma (Novakovic), hours before she's gunned down by unknown forces. Essentially, *Edge of Darkness* is a man vs. system film. Gibson moves slowly, haltingly, and his face has become a road map of chiseled and pitted age lines overcast by a small sprinkling of gray hair. He seems chastened – Catholic imagery is all over this film – and humbled. And knowing that makes his character more sympathetic and more human. Still, *Edge of Darkness* is not a great movie. It's a middling comeback, tentative, wary of much, and a fascinating portrait of a Hollywood icon doing his best to tiptoe back into the audience's good graces. And Gibson, a blue-eyed charmer to the bitter end, almost manages it. (01/29/2010) – Marc Savlov
★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

AN EDUCATION D: Lone Scherfig; with Carey Mulligan, Peter Sarsgaard, Alfred Molina, Cara Seymour, Dominic Cooper, Rosamund Pike, Olivia Williams, Emma Thompson. (PG-13, 95 min.)

Everything about Scherfig's coming-of-age story about a girl in the London suburb of Twickenham in 1961 is spot-on. The film tells a wonderfully nuanced story about a teenager's longing to break free of her provincial surroundings and enter the world at large. It's a story about her education in the university of life, an impartial proving ground that seduces many into its fold but whose revolving door is just as likely to hit you on the ass on the way out. Scherfig directs the drama, which is based on a memoir by Lynn Barber and adapted for the screen by Nick Hornby, with a steady but subtle hand. Crowning *An Education* is the central



Bugambilia

Bugambilia (1944) D: Emilio Fernández; with Dolores del Río, Pedro Armendáriz, Roberto Cañedo, Stella Inda. (NR, 100 min.) **Cine Las Americas: The Mexico of Emilio Fernández and Gabriel Figueroa.** A young heiress and a humble foreman in 19th century Mexico are unable to consummate their love. @Mexican American Cultural Center, Wednesday, 8pm; free.

performance of Mulligan as 16-year-old Jenny: In this breakthrough role, the actress stuns us with a range that goes from dimpled schoolgirl to oh-so-sophisticated teen to Audrey Hepburn look-alike to disillusioned-but-wiser adult. (11/13/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Arbor, Dobie, Metropolitan

THE HURT LOCKER D: Kathryn Bigelow; with Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie, Brian Geraghty, Guy Pearce, Ralph Fiennes, David Morse, Evangeline Lilly, Christopher Sayegh. (R, 131 min.)

The hybridization of arthouse and action doesn't happen all that often, but it should, if mashing the two genres makes for film as riveting and rattling as *The Hurt Locker*. Bigelow's film tells the story of an elite bomb-dismantling squad winding down a tour of duty in Iraq. “Story” is perhaps misleading, as *The Hurt Locker*, very little interested in character backstory or conventional plot, charts a series of missions, some more successful than others, with only the occasional interlude of drunken roughhousing. There's no moralizing here, no monologuing about why we fight: *The Hurt Locker* mostly restricts its focus to dramatizing the dirty work of bomb-dismantling in a war zone, and that it does brilliantly. The tension is enough to make you slightly sick, and the overall mood of the thing is deeply dispiriting, but then, nobody ever said that war isn't hell. (07/10/2009) – Kimberley Jones
★★★★ Dobie

THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS D: Terry Gilliam; with Heath Ledger, Christopher Plummer, Tom Waits, Lily Cole, Andrew Garfield, Verne Troyer, Johnny Depp, Colin Farrell, Jude Law. (PG-13, 122 min.)

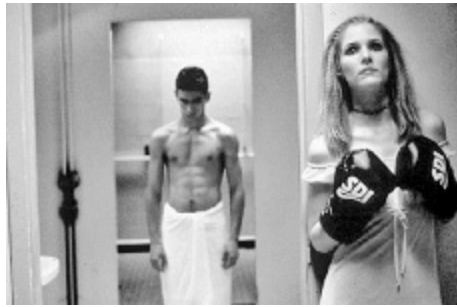
Christopher Plummer is delightful as this movie's master magician and impresario of the rickety Imaginarium, a traveling road show that features a mirrorlike portal into one's unconscious, but the real Parnassus here is Gilliam. In what has almost become his signature m.o., Gilliam rescued his film from the jaws of disaster – this time when his star, Ledger, died abruptly midway through filming. Concocting a scenario that almost works seamlessly, three actors – Depp, Farrell, and Law – were enlisted to play different aspects of Tony, the name of Ledger's character who entices people to part with their money and trip through the Imaginarium. This “continuity snafu” is not what undermines *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*. Instead, the problem resides with the story itself, or rather, the lack of story. Co-written with Charles McKeown, with whom Gilliam also wrote *Brazil* and *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*, the scenario doesn't contain much activity beyond the initial setup. (01/08/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Dobie

ISHQIYA D: Abhishek Chaubey; with Naseeruddin Shah, Vidya Balan, Arshad Warsi, Salman Shahid. (NR, 120 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. This new Bollywood film is a realistically told story about two con men. (02/05/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
Tinseltown South

LEGION D: Scott Stewart; with Paul Bettany, Dennis Quaid, Tyrese Gibson, Adrianne Palicki, Doug Jones, Jon Tenney, Charles S. Dutton, Kevin Durand, Lucas Black, Kate Walsh. (R, 105 min.)

Legion arrives with a great premise at its core but quickly devolves into a greatest hits repackaging of homages, lifts, and outright steals from other, better truck-stop apocalypse pics. God, the wrathful, smitey one, has finally given up on mankind and decided to initiate armageddon just in time for Christmas. The angel Michael (Bettany), distressed, vacates his post, shears off his wings, and plummets earthward, intent on saving the world from his former boss. Bettany, to his credit, gives it his all, mowing down angel-possessed, CGI-malformed people by the dozen and doing his best to protect the unborn savior inside a Mojave Desert diner owner (Palicki). But ultimately *Legion* feels cobbled together from odd bits of other films, which indeed it is. If you've seen one plague of flies and death and angels at war with each other, you've seen 'em all. (01/29/2010) – Marc Savlov
★ Southpark Meadows, Highland, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North



Criminal Lovers

Criminal Lovers (1999) D: François Ozon; with Natacha Régnier, Jérémie Renier, Miki Manojlovic, Salim Kechiouche. (NR, 96 min.) **aGLIFF Brunch.** In this adult fairy tale, a man and woman venture into the woods to bury the body of someone they have just killed when they, themselves, become victimized by a nameless rabbit trapper (or big bad wolf). Rebecca Havemeyer hosts. @Alamo Ritz, Sunday, 1pm.

PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL ‘PUSH’ BY SAPHIRE

D: Lee Daniels; with Gabourey Sidibe, Mo'Nique, Paula Patton, Mariah Carey, Sherri Shepherd, Lenny Kravitz. (R, 109 min.)

Much like its title protagonist Precious – a sexually, emotionally, and physically abused 16-year-old African-American girl who is functionally illiterate, morbidly obese, and pregnant with her second child fathered by her own father – this film is a rough-hewn entity with unlikely odds for success. Yet both the character and the movie overcome their handicaps to become the kind of success stories that the American mythmaking machinery loves to love. Claireece Precious Jones (Sidibe) and her mother, Mary (Mo'Nique), are women we rarely notice. But instead of looking the other way, this movie and the popular book on which it is based place them front and center. Newcomer Sidibe is a real find and not just a looming presence and narrative device. Daniels has also done a marvelous job of casting famous friends of his and getting heart-stirring, stripped-down performances from them all. Despite achieving such a remarkably raw and naturalistic tone, Daniels ups the ante with extreme melodramatic touches. (11/20/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Tinseltown South

SHERLOCK HOLMES D: Guy Ritchie; with Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Rachel McAdams, Mark Strong, Eddie Marsan, Kelly Reilly, James Fox, Hans Matheson, Geraldine James. (PG-13, 128 min.)

Ritchie has reinvented the chilly, brainiac character of Sherlock Holmes as a tortured genius, ladies' man (sort of), and occasional backroom brawler. As played by Downey Jr. (an inspired casting choice that works in the film's favor), this incarnation is a post-millennial man of action. With Watson (Law, another spot-on bit of casting) at his side, Holmes uncovers a satanic plot that takes him from the lowliest subterranean hellholes to the highest levels of Parliament. Ritchie manages to mostly restrain his more florid directorial flourishes while creating a CGI London so benighted and soot-heavy you can practically smell it. This is Downey Jr.'s film all the way, and while literary traditionalists and Baker Street Irregulars (of which I am one) may find this Holmes' penchant for face-crunching fisticuffs and back-alley chases a sad sop to the action-jaded audiences of the 21st century, the actor's more masculine interpretation of the character is never anything less than startling, fresh, and altogether entertaining. (12/25/2009) – Marc Savlov
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

Three Monkeys

Three Monkeys (2008) D: Nuri Bilge Ceylan; with Yavuz Bingol, Hatice Aslan, Rifat Sungar, Ercan Kesal. (NR, 109 min.) **Austin Film Society: Children of Abraham/Ibrahim 4 – Films of the Middle East and Beyond.** A Turkish family suffers from a major communication breakdown. @Alamo Drafthouse South, Tuesday, 7pm; \$6, AFS members free.



A SINGLE MAN D: Tom Ford; with Colin Firth, Julianne Moore, Matthew Goode, Nicholas Hoult, Jon Kortajarena, Ginnifer Goodwin, Paulette Lamori. (R, 99 min.)

George Falconer (Firth) is a middle-aged British ex-pat teaching at a southern California university in 1962. A closeted homosexual by cultural necessity, he's possessed of monumental outward conformity. On the face of it, the immaculately groomed and exceedingly dry George is preparing for yet another day in the classroom. But beneath that lies the real George, a heartsick shell of a man who is grieving the accidental death of his longtime companion Jim (Goode). Adapted from the novel by Christopher Isherwood, *A Single Man* is an exquisite and haunting feature debut from fashion designer/icon Tom Ford. It's a melancholy meditation on love and death and hidden lives, and Ford brings everything he has to the film, not least of which is his picture-perfect designer's eye for detail, composition, and the infinite subtleties of narrative shading. Everything fits perfectly, from titles to *fin*, but most of all Firth, who dons the role of George like a fine bespoke suit. Which, Ford being Ford, it surely was. (01/15/2010) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Metropolitan

TOOTH FAIRY D: Michael Lembeck; with Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd, Julie Andrews, Chase Ellison, Billy Crystal, Stephen Merchant. (PG, 102 min.)

Johnson is deeply unlikely here as Derek Thompson, an aging ice hockey player riding out his career in the minors as muscle. When he informs the toddler daughter (Whitlock) of his girlfriend, Carly (Judd), that there is no tooth fairy, Derek pisses off a lot of fairies, and as punishment for his “dissemination of disbelief,” he's forced to serve two weeks' time as a tooth fairy. Turns out they are legion, and the fairy processing office is one of the few visually interesting things going on (less so are the workers' satiny tunics and feathered wings, which look like hand-me-downs from a high school drama department). Merchant pops in as Derek's handler, a bitter fairy stuck in a pencil-pushing job. And he's the most easy-feeling comedian onscreen. That said, the tiny-pupiled Merchant is so bug-eyed here, one wonders if he's as alarmed to find himself in this piffle as his fans are. (01/29/2010) – Kimberley Jones
★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

UP IN THE AIR D: Jason Reitman; with George Clooney, Vera Farmiga, Anna Kendrick, Jason Bateman, Amy Morton, Melanie Lynskey, J.K. Simmons, Sam Elliott, Danny McBride. (R, 109 min.)

Either by design or default, Reitman has customized a film perfectly in tune with these economically distressed, tetchy times, which may explain the near-universal hosannas with which *Up in the Air* has been met. Reitman sets the film in motion with an opening-credit sequence that highlights how America's vistas look from up above – apropos, considering that's where “career transition counselor” Ryan Bingham (Clooney) spends most of his time. Bingham, by choice, is a man without country or close ties, but very quickly two women (Farmiga and Kendrick) arrive in his life to shake up the status quo. Reitman's instincts, of both timing and tone, can feel just a hair off in the film's imperfect first and third acts. But the middle is terrific, especially in a lengthy, unassuming scene in which the three leads sit, sip drinks, and have a good chat: It marks one of the great celluloid pleasures of the year, so virtuosically written, performed, and filmed is it. (12/18/2009) – Kimberley Jones
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Tinseltown South

WHEN IN ROME D: Mark Steven Johnson; with Kristen Bell, Josh Duhamel, Anjelica Huston, Danny de Vito, Will Arnett, Jon Heder, Dax Shepard. (PG-13, 91 min.)

This film's location scouts managed to find the one cobblestone square in Rome that looks like it was manufactured on a Burbank backlot. In the square sits an ancient, magical fountain. Heartsick, or maybe just drunk and bitter that her baby sister got married first, single gal Beth (Bell) dives into the fountain and pockets a handful of coins, setting in motion one of the dumber plots to come down the pike in a long while (see you at next year's Razzies for sucky script honors, David Diamond and David Weissman!). Turns out that the men who threw those coins in the fountain are suddenly and rather violently smitten with Beth. The suitors are played by well-known comic actors – Arnett is a tortured artist, Shepard a preening male model, *Napoleon Dynamite*'s Heder a goth-y illusionist, and de Vito a sausage king – and to a one they are strenuously unfunny, while Bell is utterly blah. (02/05/2010) – Kimberley Jones

● Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE YOUNG VICTORIA
D: Jean-Marc Vallée; with Emily Blunt, Rupert Friend, Paul Bettany, Miranda Richardson, Jim Broadbent, Mark Strong, Thomas Kretschmann, Jesper Christensen, Harriet Walter. (PG, 100 min.)

How young is young Victoria? At the film's beginning, she's just 17, with all the sullenness you would expect from a shut-in future queen fending off attack from her *maman* and prospective suitors cherry-picked by two kings. Blunt convincingly portrays the Princess Victoria as bullied and slightly silly but, most of all, desperately alone. Scriptwriter Julian Fellowes makes admirable work of shorthand the complicated lineages and motives and maneuverings. Director Vallée leans on candlelight for several key scenes, and the effect is not only gorgeous but also intimates the deepening attachment between Victoria and Albert – one that was mutually felt but not spoken about plainly. (Having just earned her independence, Victoria isn't keen on giving it up again so soon.) All told, *The Young Victoria* is a very well-made if not especially memorable picture, moving with all the grace and steadfastness of a waltz Victoria and Albert share, but absent any urgency or anything particularly exclamatory. (12/25/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Arbor

YOUTH IN REVOLT D: Miguel Arteta; with Michael Cera, Portia Doubleday, Jean Smart, Zach Galifianakis, Mary Kay Place, Justin Long, Fred Willard, Ray Liotta, Steve Buscemi, Ari Graynor, Adhir Kalyan. (R, 90 min.)

Taken from C.D. Payne's early Nineties epistolary novel, *Youth in Revolt* chronicles the tortured life of Nick Twisp (Cera), a teen living mostly friendlessly in Oakland, Calif. Nick's life takes a turn for the better, however, when a family outing to a trailer park puts him in the path of Sheeni Saunders (Doubleday). She's sharp, educated, and cool to touch, at home in bikinis and Fifties shirtdresses. She drives Nick wild. Cera is fine here, and his range broadens some when Nick invents an alter ego named François – chain-smoking, troublemaking – because, as Nick puts it, “my one and only love wants me to be bad.” Gustin Nash's script consistently delivers on situational laughs, even if he never shades in the characters beyond mere pencil sketch. And given the edgy bent of director Arteta's stand-out earlier work (*The Good Girl*, *Chuck & Buck*), there's a surprising lack of bite to the film. (01/08/2010) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Alamo Draffhouse Village, Tinseltown South

Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown

Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown (1988)

D: Pedro Almodóvar; with Carmen Maura, Antonio Banderas, Julieta Serrano, María Barranco, Rossy de Palma. (R, 88 min.) **Blanton Museum of Art: Desire.** This film is a great introduction to the Almodóvar's world: an outsized, farcical, candy-colored swirl where manic lovers, terrorists, and druggies all implode in on one another and drag us along for the laughs. @Blanton Museum Auditorium (on the UT campus), Sunday, 3pm.



also playing

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com.

ARMORED ★★★ Movies 8

DAYBREAKERS ★★★ Tinseltown South

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS? ★ Movies 8

EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES
★ Metropolitan

FANTASTIC MR. FOX
★★★★ Movies 8, Dobie

IT'S COMPLICATED ★★★ Gateway

THE LOVELY BONES ★½ Metropolitan

PLANET 51 ★ Movies 8

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG
★★★★ Movies 8

THE SPY NEXT DOOR
● Metropolitan

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON ★½ Movies 8, Metropolitan

2012 ★★ Movies 8

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GIRLIE NIGHT: CRUEL INTENTIONS

Sarah Michelle Gellar is divinely evil, Ryan Phillippe is caddishly hot and Reese Witherspoon is adorable. Fun!

Tues., Feb. 16th at the Ritz



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Weds., Feb 17th at the Ritz

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FRI, FEB 12	THE WOLFMAN 345 445 740 1030 MASTER PANCAKE TRANSFORMERS 700 1000
SAT, FEB 13	THE WOLFMAN 100 200 345 445 740 1030 MASTER PANCAKE TRANSFORMERS 700 1000
SUN, FEB 14	AGLIFF Brunch: CRIMINAL LOVERS 100 THE WOLFMAN 200 345 635 1045 GONE WITH THE WIND VALENTINES SOLD OUT 600 ACTION PACK LOVE BITES SING-ALONG 1030
MON, FEB 15	THE WOLFMAN 430 720 1015 SUPER HAPPY FUN MONKEY BASH 2010! 700 MUSIC MON: SOUL POWER 945
TUE, FEB 16	THE WOLFMAN 430 720 1015 GIRLIE NIGHT CRUEL INTENTIONS 700 MARDI GRAS SEXY POP SING-ALONG 945 TERROR TUES: CRAWLSPACE 1015
WED, FEB 17	THE WOLFMAN 430 720 1015 AIGA & AMOA: ART & COPY 700 ACTION PACK SAVED BY THE BELL PARTY! 930 WEIRD WEDS: TERMINAL ISLAND MID
THU, FEB 18	THE WOLFMAN 430 720 1015 ACTION PACK THE MOULIN ROUGE SING-ALONG 700 ACTION PACK LOVE BITES SING-ALONG 1030

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FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	1135*	210*	445	730	1000
AVATAR in 3D		1110*	300	700	1020
A SINGLE MAN		1235*	310*	725*	
CRAZY HEART		1250*	350	650	940
UP IN THE AIR		150*	430*	735	
SHERLOCK HOLMES					1015
IMAGINARIUM DR. PARNASSUS					1035
LIGHTNING THIEF w/ Intergalactic Nemesis		630			Fr/Sa
SPIRIT OF THE MARATHON		100	400		Sat
CHARADE VALENTINE FEAST SOLD OUT		700			Sun
AFS Essential: THREE MONKEYS (Uc maymun)		700p			Tues
TV at the Alamo: LOST		1000p			Tues

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EDGE OF DARKNESS		130	250	730	
YOUTH IN REVOLT					1000*
Action Pack: LOVE BITES SING-ALONG			MID		Fri
ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW			MID		Sat
AMELIE VALENTINE'S FEAST SOLD OUT			700		Sun
TV at the ALAMO: LOST			1000		Tues
Action Pack: MOULIN ROUGE SING-ALONG			1015		Wed

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special screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.



THURSDAY 11

Love Bites: The Power Ballad Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm.

Moulin Rouge Sing-Along (2001) D: Baz Luhrmann; with Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor. (PG-13, 127 min.) **Action Pack.** If Nicole can do it, so can you. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Papers (2009) D: Anne Galisky. (NR, 95 min.) **University Leadership Initiative.** Undocumented youth and the challenges they face when they turn 18 are the subjects of this documentary. @Texas Union Theatre, 7pm; reserve tickets at www.papersthemovie.com.

Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2010 The return of an annual favorite, the new compilation features a whole new array of Japanese television weirdness. @Alamo Ritz, 9:40pm.

SPACES

The Future of Food (2004) D: Deborah Koons Garcia. (NR, 89 min.) This is a documentary investigation into the disturbing truth behind the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered foods that have quietly inundated our grocery shelves. @MonkeyWrench Books, 7:30pm.

FRIDAY 12

Love Bites: The Power Ballad Sing-Along @Alamo Drafrthouse Village, 12mid. (See Thursday, 2/11.)

Papers (2009) @Texas Union Theatre, 7pm; reserve tickets at www.papersthemovie.com. (See Thursday, 2/11.)

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Feb. 26 issue is Monday, Feb 15.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

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The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)

D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.) Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for more than 30 years straight. For more info, see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Drafrthouse Village, 12mid.

Spirit of the Marathon (2008) D: Jon Dunham. (NR, 120 min.) This documentary captures the essence, drama, and unique spectacle of Chicago's famed 26.2-mile race. Proceeds from the 1pm screening will benefit Communities in Schools. The second screening will be followed by a Q&A with legendary marathoner Dick Beardsley; proceeds will benefit the Dick Beardsley Foundation. Special carbo-load meals available for Austin Marathoners. @Alamo Drafrthouse South, 1, 4pm.

Transformers (2007) @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10pm. (See Friday.)

SUNDAY 14

Amélie (2001) D: Jean-Pierre Jeunet; with Audrey Tautou, Mathieu Kassovitz, Rufus, Yolande Moreau, Artus de Penguern, Dominique Pinon, Serge Merlin, Isabelle Nanty, Jamel Debbouze. (R, 122 min.) **Valentine's Day Feast.** Celebrate love and little twists of fate in this sepia-in-Technicolor portrait of Paris. See www.originalalamo.com for menu and reservations. (*) @Alamo Drafrthouse Village, 7pm.

Charade (1963) D: Stanley Donen; with Cary Grant, Audrey Hepburn, Walter Matthau, James Coburn, George Kennedy. (NR, 114 min.) **Valentine's Day Feast.** Often referred to as "the best Hitchcock movie not made by Hitchcock," this suave thriller was recently remade as *The Truth About Charlie*. See www.originalalamo.com for menu. (*) @Alamo Drafrthouse South, 7pm.

Criminal Lovers (1999) See p.82.

Gone With the Wind (1939) D: Victor Fleming; with Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable, Leslie Howard, Olivia De Havilland, Hattie McDaniel, Thomas Mitchell. (NR, 238 min.) **Valentine's Day Feast.** See www.originalalamo.com for menu and reservations. @Alamo Ritz, 6pm.

Love Bites: The Power Ballad Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 9:30pm. (See Thursday, 2/11.)

Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief With Intergalactic Nemesis (2010) @Alamo Drafrthouse South, 6:30pm. (See Friday.)

SPACES

True Romance (1993) D: Tony Scott; with Christian Slater, Patricia Arquette, Dennis Hopper, Val Kilmer, Gary Oldman, Brad Pitt, Christopher Walken, Bronson Pinchot, Michael Rapaport, Chris Penn. (R, 118 min.) Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown (1988) See p.83.

offscreen

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, or concerts/plays/performance featuring projection? This could be the place. It's also still available as a soundstage/green screen. 485-3000. www.501studios.com.

Austin FilmWorks: Feature Lab is now accepting registrations for its new class sequence, in which filmmaker Steve Mims requires students to produce two short films and play a key role in a class-produced feature-length film. See website for details. www.austinfilmworks.com.

Austin School of Film Classes An excellent slate of classes is available for your cinematic advancement at the Austin School of Film at the start of this new decade, with professional instruction in Final Cut Pro, DV and HD cameras, screenwriting essentials, introductions to Dreamweaver and Fetch, animation and lighting techniques, and more. See website for details. www.austinfilmsschool.org/classes.

channelAustin Classes Austin's digital media center offers filmmakers professional, hands-on instruction in HD field equipment and studio production, plus affordable access to the latest high-end gear and software by Sony and Apple. Learn more on Mondays from 6 to 7pm. See website for details. 1143 Northwestern. www.channelaustin.org.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, which is available to the public on a rental basis. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. It also has a break room suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. www.austinstudios.org.

MONDAY 15

Soul Power (2009) See p.82.

Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2010 @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Thursday, 2/11.)

SPACES

Roxanne (1987) D: Fred Schepisi; with Steve Martin, Daryl Hannah. (PG, 107 min.) **Movie Mundi: Romance Month.** Free. @Cafe Mundi, 7:30pm.

TUESDAY 16

Crawlspace (1986) D: David Schmoeller; with Klaus Kinski. (R, 80 min.) **Terror Tuesday.** Anyone who's ever caught UT grad Schmoeller's short film "Please Kill Mr. Kinski" knows that Werner Herzog is hardly the only director to be driven crazy by half-myth/half-man actor Kinski. Schmoeller also had the chance on this film, in which Kinski plays the demented son of a Nazi surgeon. @Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm.

Cruel Intentions (1999) D: Roger Kumble; with Sarah Michelle Gellar, Ryan Phillippe, Reese Witherspoon, Selma Blair, Joshua Jackson, Christine Baranski, Tara Reid, Swoosie Kurtz, Sean Patrick Thomas, Louise Fletcher. (R, 95 min.) **Girlie Night.** In its fourth film rendition, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* is adapted for the high-school set. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Lost TV @ the Alamo. @Alamo Drafrthouse South, Alamo Drafrthouse Village, 10pm; Alamo Drafrthouse Lake Creek, 8pm.

Mardi Gras Masquerade Sexy Pop Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

Three Monkeys (2008) See p.82.

SPACES

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (2009) D: Phil Lord and Chris Miller; with the voices of Bill Hader, Anna Faris, James Caan, Andy Samberg, Bruce Campbell, Mr. T, Neil Patrick Harris, Benjamin Bratt, Al Roker, Lauren Graham. (PG, 90 min.) **Austin Public Library: Family Movie Night.** A zippy, lippy animated adaptation of the popular children's book. (*) @Pleasant Hill Branch Library, 6:30pm; free.

Loveboy (1989) D: Joan Micklin Silver; with Patrick Dempsey, Kate Jackson, Robert Ginty, Nancy Valen, Dylan Walsh. (PG-13, 98 min.) Free. @Rounders Pizzeria, 7:30pm.

WEDNESDAY 17

Art & Copy (2009) D: Doug Pray. (NR, 89 min.) **AIGA & AMOA.** Documentarian Pray (*Hype!*, *Surfwise*) gets inside the advertising game and gets many of the country's top ad executives to reveal their techniques and hidden secrets. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Celine: Through the Eyes of the World (2010) D: Stéphane Laporte. (NR, 117 min.) Celine Dion's 2008-2009 Taking Chances World Tour is captured on film. @Gateway, 7:30pm.

Moulin Rouge Sing-Along (2001) @Alamo Drafrthouse Village, 10pm. (See Thursday, 2/11.)

Saved by the Bell Party @Alamo Ritz, 9:30pm.

Terminal Island (1970) D: Stephanie Rothman; with Don Marshall, Phyllis Davis, Ena Hartman, Marta Kristen, Barbara Leigh, Randy Boone, Sean Kenney, Tom Selleck, Roger E. Mosley, Clyde Ventura. (R, 88 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** This Seventies exploitation gem is a still-topical drama about a fictional penal colony established by the state of California from which there is no escape. But after some initial sex-based violence, the prison becomes the unlikely home of a new utopian society. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

SPACES

Buena Vista Social Club (1999) See p.81.

Bugambilia (1944) See p.82.

Loveboy (1989) @Rounders Pizzeria, 7:30pm. (See Tuesday.)

music

EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

listings



TODD V. WOLFSON

Will Sexton Benefit

Antone's, Monday 15

Musician. Friend. Brother. Father. Composer. Teacher. There's not much that Will Sexton doesn't mean to the Austin community. As one of the first to grow up in and be nurtured by our scene, Sexton's recent stroke was a shock to all. And when Austin hurts for one of its own, it also rallies like a champ to the cause. This fundraiser features top-notch talent including **Roky Erickson, Terry Allen, Eliza and Tony Gilkyson, Patty Griffin, Victoria Williams, Jimmy LaFave, Bill Carter & the Blame** with **Denny Freeman, Abra Moore, Charlie Faye**, and appearances by **Will** and **Charlie Sexton**. Though it's the day after Valentine's, you're forever our sweetheart, Will. — Margaret Moser

ANITA BAKER

Austin Music Hall, Friday 12

Anita Baker and Sade seduced the 1980s with million-seller after million-seller, crafting modern R&B that a decade earlier could have equaled Barry White's baby-making. The Detroit-raised Baker ceded the pop light to her British-Nigerian counterpart in the rich, jazz-diva vocal quest of *Giving You the Best That I Got*. And now, a collaboration with Snoop Dogg is expected this year. Get "Caught Up in the Rapture" again. — Raoul Hernandez

AL DI MEOLA

One World Theatre, Friday 12

Last January, Al Di Meola's World Sinfonia quintet took One World shred nerds down Buenos Aires way. Fausto Beccalossi's wheezy accordion and Gumbi Ortiz's cajon tangoed while the Jersey ace melted nylon strings on "Race With Devil on Spanish Highway," from Di Meola's 1977 commercial crossroads, *Elegant Gypsy*. Another return to forever, "Mediterranean Sundance," thawed that winter night. Catch a fire at 7 & 9:30pm. — Raoul Hernandez

KRS-ONE/RJD2

Scoot Inn/Emo's, Saturday 13

Jaws dropped at Mohawk last January when KRS-One flipped big band and flowed over Glenn Miller's "In the Mood" ("Live Shots," Jan. 30, 2009). That was, of course, before the Philosopher waxed political about 9/11 conspiracies. Across I-35, RJD2 spins back to the Midwestern basement in the shape of latest *The Colossus*, the DJ's first on his label, RJ's Electrical Connections. Two teachers that tossed out the syllabus. — Chase Hoffberger

NOUVELLE VAGUE

Mohawk, Saturday 13

Nouvelle Vague's bossa nova covers of P!nk, the Undertones, and Dead Kennedys have redefined the sensual French *chanson*, mixing in equal parts Jobim, Gainsbourg, and Bardot. On 3, core members Marc Collin and Olivier Libaux add the vox-pop stylings of Depeche Mode's Martin Gore, Fun Boy Terry Hall, and Bad Seed Barry Adamson to the wave of female contributors. Inside, Dead Milkman Joe Jack Talcum steps into the powder room. — Marc Savlov



MY FUNNY VALENTINE

This weekend, House of Torment – you know, behind Highland Mall – presents Dark Stalkers, a three-night Valentine's-themed walk of horrors, in which you're immersed in complete darkness with your significant other, given a glow stick to guide you, and subjected to '80s music. Beats waiting for a table at TGI Friday's, right? It's just one of many happenings this weekend. See Valentine's Listings, p.67. — Audra Schroeder

SCREAMING FEMALES

Emo's, Sunday 14

When Marissa Paternoster solos, Eddie Van Halen erupts from her petite frame. The New Jersey trio's latest, *Power Move*, is the white-hot core of its post-punk volcano, collecting the ebb and flow of decades of DIY basement jams, Paternoster's vibrato vocals balancing vicious chops. One half of Be Your Own Pet reappears as Jeff the Brotherhood, along with locals Ghost Knife and Mutating Meltedown. — Audra Schroeder

D-MADNESS

The Parish, Wednesday 17

When Dwayne "D-Madness" Jackson uprooted for D.C. last July, Austin's hip-hop, jazz, and funk communities took a collective blow. Gone was one of the city's finest drummers, bassists, and keyboardists, all in one fell swoop. This winter return – and he's all over town the next few weeks – matches the virtuoso with longtime friends Brannen Temple, Rapid Ric, Bavu Blakes, and ex-bandmates from Diasporic. — Chase Hoffberger

THE EXPLOSIVES CD RELEASE

Emo's, Thursday 18

The Explosives, three local vets with credentials to burn, are on fire again, hornin' in on the kids' scene with the same chords and style as the Raul's days. Their new CD/DVD package, aptly titled *Three Ring Circus*, doesn't just send in the clowns; it sets the big top on fire with reissued heart-pounders like "Headhunter." The Ugly Beats and the Hi-Tones join in. — Margaret Moser

soundcheck

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE/ THE GOSPEL TRUTH LP RELEASE

Emo's, Friday 12

A one-two punch of vinyl snap and crackle.

SOFT HEALER

Club 1808, Friday 12

Boy-girl quartet multitasks pop and New Wave. Fellow locals Pataphysics, Wild Harem, and Storm Shelter follow suit.

YO! MSG RAPS

Club de Ville, Friday 12

Underground ATX hip-hop gets its monthly shine with Dubb Sicks, KB the Boo Bonic, MSG, Boomset, and more.

BRIT INVASION 2

Red 7, Saturday 13

Locals Girl in a Coma, the Hi-Tones, Planet Rye Co., and the Ripe amplify the UK.

LADY FRIENDS NO. 5

Salvage Vanguard Theater, Sunday 14

It's ladies night and the feelin's right for Amanda Jones, Omebi, and Gardenella.

MIKE DOUGHTY

Cactus Cafe, Tuesday 16 & Wednesday 17

Soul Coughing wordsmith is of two tongues, *Sad Man*, *Happy Man*.

THE DICKS

Red 7, Wednesday 17

It's 8pm on Hump Day – do you know where your parents are?

MATTHEW RYAN

Cactus Cafe, Thursday 18

Dear Lover lays you down by the fire.

live music venues p.88

roadshows + club listings p.90

in-stores

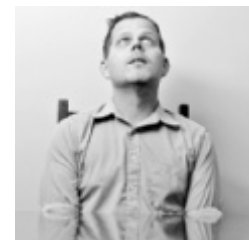
Friday: **Hannibal Lokumbe**, Waterloo Records, 5pm; **James & the Douchebags**, **Serious Tracers**, the **Sugar Queens**, Trailer Space, 7pm

Saturday: The **Dark Water Hymnal**, End of an Ear, 6pm; the **Triggermen**, **Robin & the Rubbermaids**, Trailer Space, 7pm

Tuesday: **Dust Bowl Dreamers**, Trailer Space, 7pm

Wednesday: **Brandon Rhyder**, Waterloo Records, 5pm

Thursday: The **Separation**, **Lockstep**, **Chest Pain**, **Unstoppable**, Trailer Space, 7pm



L - R: ANITA BAKER (FRI., 2/12) | NOUVELLE VAGUE (SAT., 2/13) | SCREAMING FEMALES (SUN., 2/14) | MATTHEW RYAN (THU., 2/18)

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FRI. FEB 12, 7PM: WYNN TAYLOR

SAT. FEB 13, 7PM: BYRD AND STREET

TUES. FEB 16, 7PM: MICHAEL REALIX & THE OUTRIDERS

WED. FEB 17, 7PM: PTARMIGAN

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MARDI GRAS
FEBRUARY 16TH

SOUTHPARK MEADOWS



Valentine's Day
FEBRUARY 14TH

THURS. FEB 11, 10PM KARAOKE WITH NOTORIOUS S.I.D.

FRI. FEB 12, 10PM: MATT CREATON

FREE TEXAS HOLD 'EM 9PM & 11:30PM

SAT. FEB 13, 10PM: DJ KENNEDY

SUN. FEB 14, 10PM: VALENTINE'S NUTS & BOLTS
PARTY WITH CANDILAND

TUES. FEB 16, 10PM: FAT TUESDAY PARTY

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FEBRUARY 14TH

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101X presents HOMEGROWN LIVE!

Ume, The Laughing & Jet Horns
Fri, Feb 12th 11pm - \$5

RUBY ROCKIT presents SWEETHEART SHOWCASE

Sexy burlesque for Valentine's Day!
Sat, Feb 13th 10:30pm - \$15

VALENTINE'S DAY with THE COPA KINGS!

Prix fixe menu and great tunes!
Sun, Feb 14th - Reservations avail.

Join us for HIGHBALL HAPPY HOUR EVERY MON-FRI FROM 4:30 - 7:30

Enjoy up to 2 hours of complimentary
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8PM - MIDNIGHT
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL

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 23RD AND GUADALUPE IN THE TEXAS UNION


 THE ONE & THE ONLY
THU FEB 11 • 8:30PM •
MATT THE ELECTRICIAN
 SPECIAL GUEST


FRI FEB 12 • 8:30 PM
 Ex-NEW GRASS REVIVAL ★ IN CONCERT
JOHN COWAN


Sat Feb 13
 Birthday Soiree
TERRI HENDRIX
 Special Guest ★ Claire Small
 ★ 8:30pm ★


SUN FEB 14 • 8:30PM
 VALENTINE'S SOIREE
CHRIS SMITHER


TUE FEB 16 • WED FEB 17
 IN CONCERT IN THE CACTUS
MIKE DOUGHTY
 8:30PM
 TIX ON SALE AT HEB'S & ERWIN CENTER BOX OFFICE
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THU FEB 18 •
 CD RELEASE TOUR
 8:30PM
MATTHEW RYAN


FRI FEB 19 8:30PM
 AUSTIN'S OWN
THE GOURDS
 GUEST STAR • OTIS GIBBS


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 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
AUSTIN LOUNGE LIZARDS
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TUES FEB 23 • 8:30pm
 AUTHOR OF "WILD THING"
 It's THE HITMAN
Chip Taylor


Feb 24, 25 • 8:30pm
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 AT THE CACTUS ★
GENE WEEN


Sat Feb 27 • 7:30 & 10pm
SARAH BETTENS
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 3/4 • DJANGO WALKER PAULENE REESE
 3/9 • ELIZABETH WILLS
 3/10 • SOME SAY ILEAND
 3/11 • POOR MAN'S FORTUNE SARAH DINAN
 3/13 • JIMMIE LAFAYE
 3/24 • BATTLEFIELD BAND
 4/16 & 4/17 • CARRIE RODRIGUEZ
 The Cactus is located inside the Texas Union Building.
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SOUL TRACK MIND
BACKSLIDERS
THE BRINIMERS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 ★ 10 PM ★ \$3
CHURCHWOOD
POCKET FISH'R MEN
LONESOME HEROES
ETHAN AZARIAN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 ★ 8 PM ★
 VALENTINES DAY LOVE FEST WITH
SHOTGUN PARTY
KARATE KIDS
UGLY HORSE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 ★ 10 PM ★
LEO RONDEAU
WOODSBOSS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 ★ 10PM ★
CLYDE AND CLEM AND FRIENDS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 ★ 10 PM ★
THE SLACKEY FAMILY
BETH LEE
JENNY AND THE CORNPONIES

COMING SOON: EAGLE CLAW 2/20,
NO NO HOPES, 2/26, SONS OF HERCULES 2/27

★ KITCHEN AT 11AM ★
 www.myspace.com/holeinthewallAustin

live music venues

311 CLUB, 311 E. Sixth, 477-1630
ACES LOUNGE, 222 E. Sixth, 477-2237
ANDERSON MILL TAVERN, 10401 Anderson Mill, 293-5563
ANNIES CAFE & BAR, 319 Congress, 472-1884
ANTONE'S, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424
ARTZ RIB HOUSE, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283
AUSTIN ACOUSTICAL CAFE, 2874 Shoal Crest (Lamar Senior Activity Center), 474-5921
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735, 2103 E.M. Franklin, 926-0043
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL, 208 Nueces, 263-4146
BAR 141, 141 E. Hopkins St., San Marcos, 512/558-7399
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER, 1008 Water St., Bastrop, 512/321-7907
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335
BEERLAND, 711 Red River, 479-ROCK
BESO CANTINA, 307-B W. Fifth, 535-7162
BLU, 360 Nueces, 431-4888
BLUE VELVET, 217 W. North Loop, 452-2583
BOAT HOUSE GRILL, 6812 RR 620 N., 249-5200
BOTTICELLI'S, 1321 S. Congress, 916-1315
'BOUT TIME, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339
BROKEN SPOKE, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189
BROOKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 3100 E. Fourth
THE BROWN BAR, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330
THE BUGLE BOY, 1051 N. Jefferson, La Grange, 979/968-9944
CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515
CAFE CAFFEINE, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473
CAFE MUNDI, 1704 E. Fifth, 236-8634
CAROUSEL LOUNGE, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH, 4477 S. Lamar, 899-4300
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE, 119 Cheatham St., San Marcos, 512/353-3777
CHEZ ZEE, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666
CLUB 1808, 1808 E. 12th, 524-2519
CLUB DE VILLE, 900 Red River, 457-0900
THE COCKPIT, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010
CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444
COOL RIVER CAFE, 4001 W. Parmer, 835-0010
COTTON CLUB, 212 E. Davilla St., Granger, 512/859-0700
COUPLAND DANCEHALL, 101-103 Hoxie, Coupland, 512/856-2226
DONN'S DEPOT, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336
THE DRISKILL HOTEL, 604 Brazos, 474-5911
EDDIE Y'S PRIME SEAFOOD, 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860
EL SOL Y LA LUNA, 600 E. Sixth, 444-7770
ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279
ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979
EMO'S, 603 Red River, 505-8541
ENCORE, 611 Red River, 803-7347
END OF AN EAR, 2209 S. First, 462-6008
EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie, 28-CAJUN
1ST DOWN & STASSNEY SPORTS BAR, 730 W. Stassney Ste. 120, 215-0600
FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646
FRANK & ANGIE'S PIZZERIA, 508 West Ave., 472-3534
FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193
THE GHOST ROOM, 304 W. Fourth, 879-4472
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813
GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT, 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4747
GRUENE HALL, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077
GUERO'S TACO BAR, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688
HANOVER'S, 108 E. Main St., Pflugerville, 512/670-9617
THE HIGHBALL, 1120 S. Lamar, 383-8309
HILL'S CAFE, 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300
HOLE IN THE WALL, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747
HOUSE WINE, 408 Josephine, 322-5210
THE INDEPENDENT AT 501 STUDIOS, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001
IRON CACTUS MEXICAN GRILL & MARGARITA BAR, 606 Trinity, 472-9240
IRON GATE LOUNGE, 1111 E. Sixth, 473-0431
JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825
JUNIOR'S GRILL & ICEHOUSE, 119 E. Main St., Round Rock, 512/310-7777
KEY BAR, 617 W. Sixth, 236-9389
LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290 E., 459-8729
LA ZONA ROSA, 612 W. Fourth, 263-4146
LAMBERTS, 401 W. Second, 494-1500
LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889
LONGBRANCH INN, 1133 E. 11th, 472-5477
LUCKY LOUNGE, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700
MANUEL'S, 310 Congress, 472-7555
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261
MEAN-EYED CAT, 1621 W. Fifth, 472-6326
MI CASA TAMALES & CANTINA, 503 E. Sixth, 499-0350
MINGS CAFE, 2604 Guadalupe, 476-8888
MOHAWK, 912 Red River, 482-8404
MOMO'S, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 477-2900
NEWORLDELI, 4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170
NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY, 10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969
NUEVO LEÓN, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097
NUNO'S ON SIXTH, 422 E. Sixth, 833-5133
NUTTY BROWN CAFE, 12225 Hwy. 290 W., 301-4648
ONE 2 ONE BAR, 121 E. Fifth, 473-0121
ONE WORLD THEATRE, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 330-9500
THE PARISH, 214 E. Sixth, 473-8381
THE PARLOR, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020
PLUSH, 617 Red River, 478-0099
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318
QUINN'S BAR, 101 E. Main, Round Rock, 512/310-9965
RABBIT'S LOUNGE, 1816 E. Sixth, 473-3771
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE, 13450 Hwy. 183 N., 335-5115
RED 7, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100
RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120
RENAISSANCE HOTEL, 9721 Arboretum Blvd., 343-2626
REPUBLIC LIVE, 301 W. Fifth, 480-9888
RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132
ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder St., Round Rock, 512/218-0813
ROADHOUSE RAGS, 1600 Fortview, 762-8797
RUSTY SPURS, 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002
RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637
RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, 107 W. Sixth, 477-7884
THE SALT LICK, 18001 FM 1826, Driftwood, 512/858-4959
SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886
SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 282-0083
SÃO PAULO'S, 2809 San Jacinto, 473-9988
SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR, 5900 Slaughter, 288-9994
SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552
THE SCOOT INN, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200
SHENANIGANS, 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060
SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017
ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196
STARDUST CLUB, 11940 Manchaca Rd., 280-8590
STEINER RANCH STEAKHOUSE, 5424 Steiner Ranch Blvd., 381-0800
STUBB'S, 801 Red River, 480-8341
T.C.'S LOUNGE, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200
TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304
THUNDERBIRD COFFEE, 2200 Manor Rd., 472-9900
TOM'S TABOOLEY, 2928 Guadalupe #102, 479-7337
TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER, 1401-A Rosewood, 524-1445
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL, 2201 College Ave., 443-4200
TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary St., San Marcos, 512/396-2236
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
WATERLOO RECORDS, 600-A N. Lamar, 474-2500
WHIP IN, 1950 S. I-35, 442-5337
Z'TEJAS, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355

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BEAD TOSS

NO COVER

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Tour

SAT, FEB. 13



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February 18 • Banner Year

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\$2 DOMESTICS EVERY WEEKNIGHT

THURSDAY 2/11

COLLEGE NIGHT
\$2 YOU HOLLER
DJ DIAMOND TIP

HAPPY HOUR 6-9PM

FRIDAY 2/12

HAPPY HOUR 5:30-9PM

BLACKTOOTH
DJ FUNDAMENTAL

SATURDAY 2/13

HAPPY HOUR 6-8PM

DJ DOC
SUNGLASSES & MUSHROOMS

SUNDAY 2/14

SERVICE INDUSTRY SUNDAY
LIVE BLUES 8PM-MID

ALAN HAYNES

MONDAY 2/15



**MIKE
MILLIGAN
& THE ALTAR BOYZ**
8PM-MID

TUESDAY 2/16

LIVE BAND KARAOKE

WEDNESDAY 2/17

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Hanovers

FRI/12 BLUE FINGER DISCO 9PM • \$5
SAT/13 BREWER NATION 9PM
WED/17 8 BALL DOWN 8PM
FRI/19 PRIDE & JOY 9-11PM
VALLEJO 11:30 PM • \$10
SAT/20 MYSTERIOUS WAYS
"U2 TRIBUTE" 9:30PM • \$5
WED/24 OUTLAW RED 8PM
SUEDE 9PM • \$5
SAT/27 MALFORD MILLIGAN
7PM • OUTSIDE
THE DAMN TORPEDOES
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670.9617 Smoking Allowed
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THE SCOOT INN

11 LOCAL DRAFTS * 2 FULL BARS * 2 STAGES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 9PM
WILD YAKS (BROOKLYN, NY)
MONKEYTOWN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 8PM
GOBI
PANJOMA
DEATH IS NOT A JOYRIDE
MAGAPHAUNA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 8PM
KRS-ONE
& MC OVERLORD
ADVANCE TIX ON SALE AT
gettix.net

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 9PM
*** AT LONGBRANCH INN ***
THE FUZZ CLUB!! W/
FOREVER CHANGES
(LOVE TRIBUTE)
DJ RUSSELL QUAN
& DJ SUE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 9PM
DJ GOBOT
BLACK GOLD

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 9PM
THE FLASH BOYS
BLACK PANDA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 4PM &
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 6PM
BREWSKEEBALL
LEAGUE PLAY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 9PM
CREATURE PREACHER
POWER SQUID
THE WINDOW
SILHOUETTE

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HAPPY HOUR
Tuesday-Friday 4-7pm
\$2.50 all beers
\$2 well drinks
\$3 house margaritas
1/2 price appetizers

ALL DAY HAPPY HOUR
Every Sunday 4pm-Close

SIN TUESDAYS
\$1 Select Beers \$2 Wells
Food Specials All Night!
4pm-Close

LIVE MUSIC
NO COVER ALL WEEK

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 • NO COVER!
RANDY WEEKS 7-8:30PM


NOELLE HAMPTON
 9-10:30PM


FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12 • NO COVER!
GIRL GUITAR 6-7PM
JENNIFER COOK BAND
 7:30-9PM
LOUIE'S HOMEMADE JAM 9:30-11PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 • NO COVER!
DAVID WILLIAMS 7PM
IDLE THREAT 7:30-9PM
PARSECS 9:30PM-12AM


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 • NO COVER!
YOURS TRULY (LOVE SONG SING-ALONG)
 6-9PM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15
CLOSED

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 • NO COVER!
Benefit for
HECTOR URIBE with
Melancholy Ramblers
 6:30PM-10PM


WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 • NO COVER!

GEEKS WHO DRINK
 8-10PM

club listings

A ALL AGES VENUE R ROADSHOW ★ RECOMMENDED  **HEAR MUSIC ONLINE**

THU 11

ACES LOUNGE
 Capoeira Evolucao,
 Academicos da Opera (9:00)


ANTONE'S Serena Ryder, Howie Day (9:00) 


ARTZ RIB HOUSE Russell Bros. (7:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB
 Preacher Keen (8:00)

BEERLAND Dirty Dancing, the Happen-Ins, TV Torso

BOTTICELLI'S Shawn Nelson (7:30)


BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton 

CACTUS CAFE Ben Mallott, Matt the Electrician 

CAFE CAFFEINE Open Mic

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH John Arthur Martinez (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Haleyanna Finley & Starboat, Slaid Cleaves (9:00)


CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Continental Graffiti (10:00); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30), Mike & the Moonpies 

COOL RIVER CAFE Suede


COUPLAND DANCEHALL
 Second Hand Rose (8:00)


DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Stephen Doster & Bill Carter (6:00)

EMO'S Outside: The Swellers, This Providence, Set Your Goals, Motion City Soundtrack; Inside: Chief Rival 


ANDERSON, PolySky, Kalu James 


END OF AN EAR Wild Yaks (5:00) 

EVANGELINE CAFE Amanda Percy 

FLAMINGO CANTINA Man Made Fire, Sour Bridges, Fatback Circus (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy Campbell (6:00), Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettyle (8:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Digital Antique 

B. Sterling Band, Tiny Tin Hearts 

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Gordie Tentrees (6:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Bat City Readers, Leo Barber, Darling New Neighbors, Aaron & the Mockingdales (10:00)

HOUSE WINE Stephanie Briggs (8:00)

JOVITA'S Randy Weeks, Noelle Hampton (7:00)

LA PALAPA Triple Shot (7:00)

LAMBERTS Lee Mork (7:00), DJ Chicken George (10:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, the Statesboro Revue (6:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT The Gunhands (8:00)

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Acts are listed chronologically. Schedules are subject to change, so call clubs to confirm lineups. Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music listings deadline is Monday mornings, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name, address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians Register, go to austinchronicle.com/register. Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

MOHAWK International Waters, Cowabunga Babez, Ringo Deathstarr (8:00)

MOMO'S Rankin Twins, Wisebird, Keegan Reed

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS
 A.J. Vincent (8:30)


NUNO'S ON SIXTH Pee Wee Calvin & the Way Tis

ONE 2 ONE BAR Felan, the HiDefs (9:00)

THE PARLOR The Nematoads (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Jeff Wood (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Brooks Alan Brannon

RED 7 Slay the Dawn, Vows in Ashes, Ruins of Honor, Sakrefix 

roadshows

february

THU 11
Howie Day, Serena Ryder, Antone's
Andrew Anderson, Motion City Soundtrack, Set Your Goals, This Providence, the Swellers, Emo's
Wild Yaks, End of an Ear
Sakrefix, Red 7
Wild Yaks, the Scoot Inn
Retribution Gospel Choir, Stubb's
Motion City Soundtrack, Waterloo Records

FRI 12
Anita Baker, Austin Music Hall
Guitar Shorty, Continental Club
Dead Space, the English Beat, Fishbone, Outlaw Nation, Emo's
Backsliders, Hole in the Wall
Louie's Homemade Jam, Jovita's
Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, La Zona Rosa
Al Di Meola, One World Theatre
Ottis Coleman, Poodie's Hilltop Bar & Grill
Fang, Red 7
Wale, Republic Live
Glen Phillips, Saxon Pub

SAT 13
Andrew McKnight, Austin Acoustical Cafe
Eleven Hundred Springs, Continental Club
Iration, Passafire, Pour Habit, Roots Down Below, RJD2, Kenan Bell, Happy Chichester, Emo's
Ashes of Babylon, We Are Half Nelson, Flamingo Cantina
Chris Jamison, House Wine
DJ Russell Quan, Longbranch Inn
Joe Jack Talcum, Lord Grunge, the Bassturd, Nouvelle Vague, Mohawk
Naga Valli, Momo's
Valley of the Mariner, One 2 One Bar
Acid Reflux, the Parlor
Girl in a Coma, Red 7
KRS-One, the Scoot Inn
David Stevens & the Morris Nelms Quartet, St. David's Episcopal Church
Triggermen, Trailer Space Records & Events Center
Northern Paradox, Trophy's

SUN 14
Chris Smither, Cactus Cafe
Screaming Females, Jeff the Brotherhood, Emo's
Los Fabulocos, Gruene Hall

Head Crusher, Pay at the Pump, Color Neutral, Red 7
Tavana, Speakeasy

MON 15
Terry Allen, Victoria Williams, Antone's
D-Madness, the Ghost Room
Sun Salutations, Lucky Lounge

TUE 16
Mike Doughty, Cactus Cafe
War Between Oceans, Emo's
Rodney Hayden, Gruene Hall
Pine Hill Haints, Mohawk
The Devil Rides, Atom Age, Red 7
Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub

WED 17
Mike Doughty, Cactus Cafe
Stone River Boys, Continental Club
Mayday Parade, Rocket to the Moon, There for Tomorrow, Stereo Skyline, Call the Cops, Emo's
D-Madness, the Parish
The Dicks, Red 7
Ouachita, Saxon Pub

THU 18
MacGregor Burns, Club 1808
Blacklisted, Red 7
Fayuca, Ruta Maya
The Lonely H, Triple Crown

ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME

Emo's

alternative lounge 505-8541
603 RED RIVER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

OUTSIDE: DOORS @7PM:

MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK
SET YOUR GOALS

THIS PROVIDENCE • THE SWELLERS

INSIDE: SOUNDCHECK MAGAZINE
PRESENTS A \$2 SHOW

KALU JAMES • POLYSKY
ANDREW ANDERSON • CHIEF RIVAL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

OUTSIDE: DOORS @7PM: 101X PRESENTS

THE ENGLISH BEAT
FISHBONE • OUTLAW NATION

INSIDE: BICENTENNIAL BABY
RECORD RELEASE PARTY
CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE • GOSPEL TRUTH
KINGDOM OF SUICIDE LOVERS

DEAD SPACE • DJ BEN BLACKOUT (IN BETWEEN SETS)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

OUTSIDE: DOORS @9PM:

101X CHILLVILLE PRESENTS: **RJD2**
KENAN BELL
HAPPY CHICHESTER

INSIDE: DOORS @8PM:
LADERA SKATEBOARDS PRESENTS
WINTER BLACKOUT 2010

THE EXPENDABLES • IRATION
PASSAFIRE • POUR HABIT
ROOTS DOWN BELOW

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

INSIDE: **SCREAMING FEMALES**
JEFF THE BROTHERHOOD
GHOST KNIFE • MUTATING MELTDOWN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

INSIDE: **IN FEAR & FAITH**
FIRE FROM THE GODS • THIEVES
A WAR BETWEEN OCEANS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

OUTSIDE: DOORS @6PM:

HOT TOPIC PRESENTS
THE SUB CITY TAKE ACTION TOUR
WE THE KINGS • MAYDAY PARADE
A ROCKET TO THE MOON • THERE FOR TOMORROW
STEREO SKYLINE • CALL THE COPS

INSIDE: SUPERPOP SHOWCASE
A GIANT DOG • THE BUBBLES
BAD LOVERS • BROTHER MACHINE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

INSIDE:

THE EXPLOSIVES THREE RING
CIRCUS CD/DVD RELEASE PARTY
UGLY BEATS • THE EXPLOSIVES
THE HI-TONES

COMING SOON: 3/3 101X PRESENTS: MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA W/ THE FEATURES, CHRIS STAPLES AND O'BROTHER (OUT) • 3/4 (NICK CURRAN BENEFIT SHOW WITH) LOWER CLASS BRATS, KRUM BUMS, THE CHUMPS AND FLASH BOYS (IN) • 3/5 (CD RELEASE PARTY) CRUISERWEIGHT W/ RIDDLIN KIDS, HERE HOLY SPAIN AND SCHMILLION (IN) • 3/6 GAL'S PANIC (REUNION SHOW) W/ ARIEL ABSHIRE, THE UGLY BEATS AND EL BOMBASI (OUT) • 3/6 DAWES & CORY CHISEL AND THE WANDERING SONS W/ JASON BOESL (IN) • 3/7 MIDNIGHT W/ VOLAHN, ASHDAUTAS AND YOU PEOPLE (IN) • 3/14 RX BANDITS W/ THE BUILDERS AND THE BUTCHERS AND ZECHS MARQUISE (OUT) • 3/15 LITTLE DRAGON (IN) • 3/16 HANK III W/ ASSJACK AND KYLE TURLEY • 3/28 101X PRESENTS ALKALINE TRIO W/ CURSIVE AND THE DEAR & DEPARTED (OUT) • 4/2 101X PRESENTS HOCKEY W/ THE CONSTELLATIONS, THE POSTELLES (INSIDE) • 4/5 SOUNDCHECK MAGAZINE PRESENTS KING KHAN & THE SHRINES W/ THE FRESH & ONLYS AND THE STRANGE BOYS (OUT) / WOXY PRESENTS THE WEDDING PRESENT W/ RINGO DEATHSTARR (IN) • 4/9 101X AND SOUNDCHECK MAGAZINE PRESENT CAMERA OBSCURA • 4/13 101X PRESENTS THE TEMPER TRAP W/ KISSAWAY TRAIL (OUT) • 4/20 THE WILLOWZ (IN, ON SALE SAT 2/13) • 4/22 101X PRESENTS BEACH HOUSE W/ WASHED OUT (OUT) • 4/23 LOTUS (OUT, ON SALE SAT 2/13) • 4/24 BONE THUGS N HARMONY (OUT) • 4/27 MEGAFALUN W/ BREATHE OWL BREATHE (IN)

*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT emosoastin.com, Waterloo Records,
End of an Ear Records & Trailer Space

UPCOMING SHOWS
ADVANCE TICKETS
@EMOSAUSTIN.COM & BUY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

OUTSIDE, DOORS @8PM:

PRETTY THINGS PEEPSHOW
(BURLESQUE / SIDESHOW)

MR. LEWIS & THE FUNERAL FIVE

INSIDE:

CHAIN & THE GANG
STRANGE BOYS • YELLOW FEVER
COWABUNGA BABES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

OUTSIDE:

101X PRESENTS
THE SOUNDTRACK
OF OUR LIVES
NICO VEGA • MY EDUCATION

INSIDE: **TV TORSO**
CORTO MALTESE • JESSE WOODS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

INSIDE: NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS

D.R.I. (DIRTY ROTTEN IMBECILES)
BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA
CONDEMNED UNIT • BIRTH A.D.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

INSIDE:

NICK OLIVERI (OF QOTSA, KYUSS, THE
DWARVES, MONDO GENERATOR)
PURE LUCK • WHISKEY DICK

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

INSIDE:

EVAN DANDO
SCOTT REYNOLDS (ALL) • QUIET COMPANY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

INSIDE:

JUCIFER
A STORM OF LIGHT • VIA VENGEANCE
THE ROLLER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

OUTSIDE: ROWDY TIJMES PRESENTS

CASH BASH IV • EARL POOLE
BALL (JOHNNY CASH'S PIANIST)
W.S. 'FLUKE' HOLLAND BAND (JOHNNY
CASH'S DRUMMER) • THE DERAILERS
ROGER WALLACE • THE SKELETONS
BRIGITTE LONDON • THE BAND IN
BLACK (JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE BAND)

INSIDE: **GIVERS**
CADDYWHOMPUS • WHITMAN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

INSIDE: CD RELEASE PARTY
WHITE WHITE LIGHTS
COWABUNGA BABES • THE HAPPEN-INS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

INSIDE: **HOD • BLASPHERIAN**
GRAVEHILL • DISFIGURED

THE OLD COUPLAND INN & DANCEHALL

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Friday, February 12th
BILLY BROWN AND
TRIPLESOT

Saturday, February 13th
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Package available including
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North and South Locations

Coming Soon

Thursday, February 18th

CHUCK ALLEN FLOYD

Friday, February 19th

CURTIS GRIMES

Saturday, February 20th

DERYL DODD

Thursday, February 25th

EMORY QUINN

Friday, February 26th

BRODIE LANE

Saturday, February 27TH

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Lucky Tubb &
The Modern Day Troubadours

The Skeletons

The Band in Black
(Johnny Cash Tribute Band)

Brigitte London

Roger Wallace

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Tijmes
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26
8PM

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\$20
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fr 12 Jungle Rockers, Dave Bone & the
Troublemakers, Tempo Tantrums
8-9:30 Tyler Clark Band

sa 13 Flametrick Subs, Automusik

su 14 closed

mo 15 ROCK & ROLL KARAOKE @ 9PM

tu 16 Uncle Rod's Country Cavalcade-
Jenny & the Corn Ponies, Darrin Hoff &
the Hard Times, Woodsboss

we 17 The Stuffies, Lost Controls,
Monkey Town, Come and Take It, Closet
Drama

th 18 The Carrots, Shapes Have Fangs,
OBN III's, Bear Claw

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Factory Records/Hacienda Night
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DJs ASURASUNIL, NONE & SHERVIN

Friday • Feb 12 LIVE MUSIC!

Matches for Memories 12 AM

The Little Bicycles 11 PM

Zeke Villarreal 10 PM

www.myspace.com/zekevillarreal

Saturday • Feb 13 SPECIAL EVENT!

ARTSTRADA MAGAZINE presents

FREE FASHION SHOW

7:30pm - 10:00pm

feat. Dubnautica & Slitscan Radio

see website for details - followed @ 10pm by:

goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURODANCE

WITH DJ VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

Sunday • Feb 14 REGRESSION

RETRO 80's RETRO 80's RETRO 80's

WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & BOBA FETT

Tuesday • Feb 16 ROCK BAND

The ROCK BAND Experience

WITH DJ MINIMUS

Wednesday • Feb 17 MID-WAVE

UNDERGROUND RETRO & OLD SCHOOL goth

WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thu, Feb 18 • Live! Undergrowth -12,

Snatch Racket -11, Zombie Sidekick -10

Fri, Feb 19 • Live! subNatural -12,

Future Process -11, Decibel -10

21+ only • doors @ 9:30 PM unless specified

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM THURSDAY

RED FEZ DJ Hobo D (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Mike Ethan
Messick

RUTA MAYA Austin Volunteer
Orchestra (9:00)

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE
Jeff Lofton Trio (8:00)

SAXON PUB David Holt &
Tommy Shannon (6:00),
Hector Ward & the Big Time ♪,
George Devore, Reid Wilson
& His So-Called Friends
(8:00) ♪

THE SCOOT INN Monkey Town,
Wild Yaks (9:00) ♪

STUBB'S Retribution Gospel
Choir (9:00) ♪ ♪

T.C.'S LOUNGE Lisa Marshall
(9:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Acoustic
Open Mic

THUNDERBIRD COFFEE Naked
Folk Collective ♪ (7:00)

TOM'S TABOOLEY Fractals
(7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Ron Brietzke,
Henry + the Invisibles, the
Blue Hit

TROPHY'S The Original Mexican
Bob

WATERLOO RECORDS Motion
City Soundtrack (5:00) ♪

FRI 12

ANTONE'S The Trishes,
Reckless Kelly CD
Release (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE The Flyin' A's
(7:30)

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Anita
Baker ♪ ♪

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Altar
Boyz (10:30)

BEERLAND Tyler Clark ♪, Tempo
Tantrums, Dave Bone & the
Troublemakers, the Jungle
Rockers (8:00)

BLU Christian Barbutto (7:00)

BOAT HOUSE GRILL The Sevvilles

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE Dance
Lessons, the Cornell Hurd
Band (8:00)

THE BUGLE BOY Bill & Katie
Isles (7:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE
Transgressors (9:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH
Ukemi ♪ (6:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH
BettySoo (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET
WAREHOUSE Guy Forsyth
(9:30)

CLUB 1808 Storm Shelter, Wild
Harem, Pataphysics, Soft
Healer ♪

CLUB DE VILLE Skills w/
Clemits ♪, Gigalithic, Birds
Eye Blues, Thesaurus Rex ♪,
KB the Boo Bonic, MSG,
Boomset, S.T.A.T.I.K., Jaysin,
Japanese Jesus, Dubb Sicks ♪
♪

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Mike Flanigin w/ Denny
Freeman & Frosty (10:00);
In the Club: The Blues
Specialists (6:00), Guitar
Shorty, Jake Andrews ♪
(10:00) ♪

COOL RIVER CAFE The
Sophisticates (9:00)

COTTON CLUB Brodie Lane

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the
Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby
Bar: Jasper & Woody, Lucas
Hudgins (6:00)

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Mariachi
Tamazula (8:00)

EMO'S Outside: Outlaw Nation,
Fishbone, the English Beat;
Inside: Ben Blackout, Dead
Space, Kingdom of Suicide
Lovers, the Gospel Truth,
Cause for Applause ♪ ♪

ENCORE Razr 13

EVANGELINE CAFE Charlie
Terrell & the Murdered Johns
(10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA El Tule
(9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Wild Bill & the Lost Knobs,
Amanda Mora Jones, Pops
Bayless (6:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Focus Group,
Hard Proof Afrobeat ♪, J.
Wesley Haynes Trio ♪ (10:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN
SALOON Janet Lynn (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Jason Allen
(7:00)

HANOVER'S Blue Finger Disco
(9:00)

THE HIGBALL Jet Horns, the
Laughing, Ume (10:00)

HILL'S CAFE Ben Morris

HOLE IN THE WALL The
Brimmers, Backsliders, Soul
Track Mind (10:00) ♪

HOUSE WINE DAN X.O., DJ Cris-
Mess (8:00)

JOVITA'S Jennifer Ellen Cook ♪,
Louie's Homemade Jam
(7:00) ♪

LA ZONA ROSA Karl Denson's
Tiny Universe ♪

LAMBERTS The Pons, Wiretree ♪,
Ideal Soul Mart (10:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE JJ Usher, DJ
Diamond Tip (9:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann
Atherton (7:00)

MOHAWK English Teeth, Wine &
Revolution, Monarchs, Follow
That Bird! (10:00)

MOMO'S Po Girl, Jack Valen,
Josh Halverson, Kalu James ♪
CD Release (8:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS
James Anderson (8:30)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Will Evans
Project, Derrick Davis (9:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Al Di
Meola (7:00, 9:30) ♪ ♪

THE PARISH Politics, Prayer
for Animals, Motel Aviv, Red
Leaves ♪

THE PARLOR Scrabble Robot ♪
(9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE
Therapy Sisters (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR &
GRILL Otis Coleman ♪

RED 7 Blank Generation, Women
in Prison, Capital Scam, Me
vs. Everybody, You People,
Fang ♪

RED FEZ Learning Secrets w/
Ramesh & Samantha (10:00)

REPUBLIC LIVE Wale ♪

RILEY'S TAVERN Joel Hofmann
Band

RUTA MAYA Arthur Yoria, Los
Bad Apples ♪, Rubik (9:00)

SÃO PAULO'S Three Jazz
Collective

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR The
Swingsters

SAXON PUB Earl Poole Ball &
the Cosmic Americans (6:00),
Glen Phillips, Love at War ♪,
Ricky Stein (9:00) ♪

THE SCOOT INN Megafauna,
Death Is Not a Joyride.,
Panjoma ♪, Gobi (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Mary's
Distraction (9:30)

Riley's TAVERN SINCE 1933

THU 2/11 THIRSTY THURSDAY WITH
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FRI 2/12 JOEL HOFMANN BAND

SAT 2/13 TWO TONS OF STEEL

SUN 2/14 OPEN MIC

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TUE 2/16 MOLLY HAYES

WED 2/17 JACK HIGGINBOTHAM

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SATURDAY
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SUNDAY
12:30 - 3 PM

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UKEMI
world music

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13
CHARLES THIBODEAUX
& THE AUSTIN CAJUN ACES
MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION:
laissez les bon temps roulez

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14
THE **TAMECA JONES** QUARTET
soul, groove, jazz

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19
SON Y NO SON
latin

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20
DUSTIN WELCH
americana

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11
JOHN ARTHUR MARTINEZ
americana, spanish troubadour

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12
BETTY SOO
singer-songwriter

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13
RUMBULLION
FRENCH CAFE MUSIC
laissez les bon temps roulez

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14
KRIS KIMURA QUARTET
jazz

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MAR 6 - Dan Dyer
MAR 7 - Austin Piazzolla Quintet

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FEB 19 - Boxcar Preachers
FEB 20 - The Lost Pines
FEB 21 - Acoustic Jungle

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CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Capital
Suspects (9:00)

STARDUST CLUB Weldon Henson

STUBB'S Brink of Disaster, Prey
for Sleep, Manifesto (9:00)

T.C.'S LOUNGE DJ Sheila
Robinson

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Melodic
Drifters

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS
& **EVENTS CENTER** Sugar
Queens, Serious Tracers,
James & the Douchebags ♪
(7:00)

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL
Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz
Babies (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Bill Jerram,
Sasquatch Holler, Skeletons

TROPHY'S Paul Sutherland, Dad
Jim, Back Porch Mary, Dirty
Charlie

WATERLOO RECORDS Hannibal
Lokumbe (5:00)

BEERLAND Automusik,
Flametrick Subs

BOAT HOUSE GRILL Whitestone
'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Dance
Lessons, Dale Watson (8:00)

THE BUGLE BOY Elizabeth Wills
(8:00)

CACTUS CAFE Terri Hendrix (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Wannabes,
Right or Happy (9:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH
Charles Thibodeaux & the
Austin Cajun Aces (6:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH
Rumbullion (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET
WAREHOUSE Forest Wayne
Allen, Doctor G. & the
Mudcats (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Mike Flanigin w/ Frosty
(10:00); In the Club: Redd
Volkaert (3:00), Doug
Moreland, Eleven Hundred
Springs CD Release (10:00) Ⓡ

COOL RIVER CAFE Top Choice

COTTON CLUB Dave Jorgenson ♪

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
& Outlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby
Bar: Patricia G. (7:00)

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Atash ♪
(10:00)

EMO'S Outside: Happy
Chichester, Kenan Bell, RJD2;
Inside: Roots Down Below,
Pour Habit, Passafire, Iration,
the Expendables Ⓡ

ENCORE Bitchfest w/ Struck,
Lust Murder Box, Lucid
Dementia ♪, Dead Lotus
Society, One-Eyed Doll ♪

END OF AN EAR The Dark Water
Hymnal (6:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Jeff & the
Jumptones (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA We
Are Half Nelson, Ashes of
Babylon (9:00) Ⓡ

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Laura Freeman & the Hey
Lollies (10:00am); No Show
Ponies, Mandi Leblanc, Liz
Clark & Tessa Perry (6:00)

THE GHOST ROOM The Mucks,
Transmography, La Snacks
(10:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN
SALOON The Dead
Sweethearts Ball w/ Brad
Fordham, Lisa Pankratz, T.
Jarrod Bonta, Jim Stringer, Teri
Joyce, Roger Wallace, Brennen
Leigh, Jason Arnold (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Albert & Gage
(1:00); Midnight River Choir,
Stoney LaRue (9:00)

HANOVER'S Brewer Nation
(9:00)

HILL'S CAFE Opie Hendrix

HOLE IN THE WALL Ethan
Azarian, the Lonesome
Heroes, Pocket FishRmen,
Churchwood (9:00)

HOUSE WINE Chris Jamison ♪
(8:00) Ⓡ

THE INDEPENDENT AT 501
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Patrol

SAT 13

ANDERSON MILL
TAVERN K.B. & the
Headliners (10:00)

ANTONE'S Lou Ann Barton,
Carolyn Wonderland (8:00),
White Denim (11:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Ranch Road
12 (7:00)

AUSTIN ACOUSTICAL CAFE
Andrew McKnight (7:00) Ⓡ

SOUNDWARS

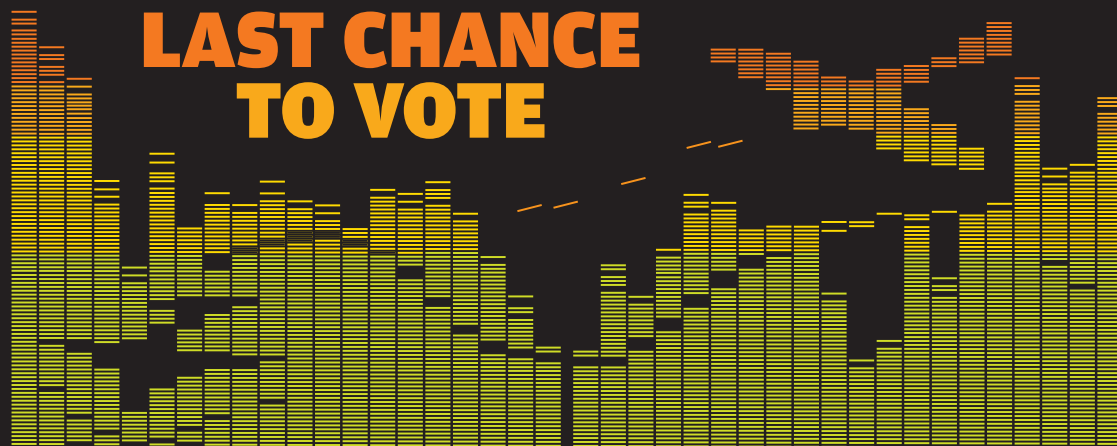
is a song competition between local Austin bands competing for notoriety, exposure,
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VOTE



NOW

LAST CHANCE TO VOTE



**DEADLINE
TO VOTE:
Monday,
February
15**



BEST



SONG



VOTE



ONLINE



TODAY



Competing bands must be registered in the *Chronicle's*

Musicians Register (austinchronicle.com/musiciansregister)

and opt in on their Musicians Register profile page in order to participate and be included in the contest.
Update your Musicians Register profile, upload your song, and good luck!

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AMANDA PEARCY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12 • 10PM • \$5
CHARLIE TERRELL & THE MURDERED JOHNS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 • 10PM • \$5
JEFF & THE JUMP TONES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 • 6:30PM
THE AUSTIN CAJUN ACES

fat TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 16
5:30PM
FUNKY MAMBA

CHARLES THIBODEAUX & THE AUSTIN CAJUN ACES
8PM

PONTY BONE & THE SQUEEZETONES
10PM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 • 7PM
MARK VIATOR & SUSAN MAXIE

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VALENTINE'S DAY WEEKEND



an evening with
anita baker
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12TH
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL
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CLINT BLACK
APRIL 30
GRETCHEN WILSON MAY 15

THE CHARLIE DANIELS BAND
MAY 29

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www.threadgill.com

The Seekers

SUN. 2/14 11am Gospel Brunch no cover
301-W. Riverside Dr. 512.472.9304



SUN. 2/14 11am Hank & Shaidri Alrich
Bluegrass Brunch no cover

WED. 2/17 7pm Earl Poole Ball
Sittin', Singin' & Supper no cover
6416 N. LAMAR BLVD. (512)451.5440



Lucky lounge

NO COVER • FREE SHOWS

THU 02/11 6PM
THE RETURN OF HAPPY HOUR
FEATURING THE LEGENDARY
IAN MCLAGAN & THE BUMP BAND
LATER AT 10PM:
STATESBORO REVUE

FRI 02/12 9PM
JJ USHER
LATER: DJ DIAMOND TIP SPINS TIL 2AM

SAT 02/13 9PM
FATTY MONK
LATER: DJ CRUES SPINS TIL 2AM

SUN 02/14 10PM
HEARTBREAKERS BALL
WITH
DJ ABE THE ASSASSIN

MON 02/15 10PM
SUN SALUTATIONS
11:30PM: **TRIPPIN' OUT WEST**

TUE 02/16 10PM
FAT TUESDAY BLOWOUT
WITH **AUSTIN KNIGHTS BRASS BAND**
AND **BOOMBOX ATX**

WED 02/17 5:30PM
HAPPY HOUR FEATURING
JEFF LOFTON LATER @ 10PM:
BEN BURGESS 5:30PM

THU 02/18 6PM
HAPPY HOUR WITH **IAN MCLAGAN & THE BUMP BAND** 10:30PM: **STATESBORO REVUE**
209A West 5th St. 479-7700
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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11 \$5

BREWSTER'S *Thursdays*
Birthday Bash 5 *Moreland* 7:30
THE RANKIN TWINS 8:30 **KEEGAN REED** 12:30
WISE BIRD 11

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12 \$10

PO-GIRL 8
Jack Valen 9:30 **JOSH HALVERSON** 10:30
KALU JAMES BAND
LIVE CD RELEASE 12

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13 \$10

Power of LOVE *Pre-Valentine's show*
GERON HILL 7
NAGA VALLI 8
Carley WOLF 9

Suzanna Choffel 10
CHEWY SPEWIS FEAT. GEORGE DEVORE
& THE SCREWS 12

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14 \$7

GORILLA MUSIC
Battle of the Bands 1-7
WARREN HOOD & THE HOODLUMS 9:30
noble DOG 8:30 **DARREN HOFF** 12:15

MONDAY FEBRUARY 15 \$5

THE VERMEERS 6:30 **JARROD DICKENSON** 8
Dustin carley 9:30
WELCH WOLF 10:30
STEVE PACK 11:45

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16 \$5 \$3

Christina Harris 6:30
WORLD MUSIC NIGHT
HARDPROOF *Amoeb* 8
La Guerrilla 10 **FEDERICO** 7 & THE HASHASHINS 12

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17 \$5

TORY TOMPKINS 5:30
RAY PRIM 7
AKINA ADDERLEY 8
ROBIN SMITH 9:30
TED FEAT. DREW SMITH 10:30
Sideshow Tragedy 12

UP COMING SHOWS

VENUS VELVET Feb 19
BURLESQUE SHOW w/ JOHNNY HOOTROCK
Afrofreak Feb 20
GEORGE PORTER Jr. Feb 20

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

IRON CACTUS MEXICAN GRILL & MARGARITA BAR Open Mic

JOVITA'S David Williams, Idle Threat, Parsecs (7:00) R

JUNIOR'S GRILL & ICEHOUSE Victoria & Zeta Five (7:30)

LAMBERTS The Reflex (7:00); Fictionists, B. Sterling, Picardy III (10:30)

LONGBRANCH INN DJ Sue's Fuzz Club w/ DJ Russell Quan, Forever Changes (10:00) R

LUCKY LOUNGE Fatty Monk, DJ Spyda (9:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Horse Opera (9:00)

MI CASA TAMALES & CANTINA Zero Absoluto, Rubik (10:30)

MOHAWK Outside: DJ Manolo Black, Candi & the Strangers, Pataphysics, Nouvelle Vague; Inside: The Bassturd, DJ Jester the Filipino Fist, Lord Grunge, Joe Jack Talcum (9:00) R

MOMO'S Geron Hoy, Naga Valli, Carley Wolf, Suzanna Choffel, Chewy Spewis & the Screws R

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS Judith Miller (8:30)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Stephen Doster & Bill Carter (6:30)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Mike Dill, Valley of the Mariner, Aimless Gun (8:30) R

THE PARISH Rock the Casbah w/ DJ Mel (10:00)

THE PARLOR The Altars, Manikin, the Hex Dispensers, Acid Reflux (9:00) R

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Old Waterloo, Christy & the Plowboys (5:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Bad Rodeo

QUINN'S BAR Lixbox (8:30)

RED 7 The Ripe, Planet Rye Co., the Hi-Tones, Girl in a Coma R

RED FEZ DJ Orion, Prince Klassen (8:00, 10:00, 10:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Two Tons of Steel

ROADHOUSE RAGS Soul Proprietors, Eve & the Exiles, LeROI Brothers (8:00)

RUTA MAYA Mike Davis & Alicia Gill (5:00), World Carnival w/ McCallum High School Knights of Steel, Capoeira Evolução, Acadêmicos da Ópera, O Positivo (9:00)

THE SALT LICK Jeremy Steding (2:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT The Moonhangers (9:00)

SÃO PAULO'S Los Alquimistas

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Continental Graffiti

SAXON PUB Micky & the Motorcars, the Resentments, Brian Pounds

THE SCOOT INN MC Overlord, KRS-One (8:00) R

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Freshwater Wells in Malawi Benefit w/ David Stevens & the Morris Nelms Quartet, Alex Coke (2:00, 7:00) R

STARDUST CLUB Jamie Krueger

STUBB'S The Sour Notes, the Mercers, White Dress (9:00)

T.C.'S LOUNGE DJ Sheila Robinson

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER Rubbermaids, Triggermen (7:00) R

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Mirage Jazz Ensemble (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN The Black Ride, Flatcar Rattlers, the Organics

TROPHY'S Tornadho, Northern Paradox, Muchos Backflips! R

SUN 14

ARTZ RIB HOUSE

Friends of Traditional Music Records Nite (2:00), Harmony Brothers (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes Session (9:00)

BLUE VELVET Fractals (7:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (8:00)

CACTUS CAFE Chris Smither (8:30) R

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Tameca Jones (12:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Kris Kimura Quartet (12:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE The Ash Family (4:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Jon Dee Graham, Mike Flanigin (8:30); In the Club: Heybale! (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

EMO'S Mutating Meltdown, Ghost Knife, Jeff the Brotherhood, Screaming Females R

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Sweet Bunch of Daisies, Michael Cockram, Electric Mountain Rotten Apple Gang (6:00)

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (5:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Little Stolen Moments (8:00)

GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

GRUENE HALL Los Fabulocos (12:30); Meagan Tubbs, Bob Schneider (5:00) R

HILL'S CAFE Jon Emery

HOLE IN THE WALL Loves It, Karate Kids (9:00)

JUNIOR'S GRILL & ICEHOUSE Victoria & Zeta Five (1:00)

LAMBERTS Black, Red & Black (7:00), Guy Forsyth (10:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Heartbreakers Ball w/ DJ Abe the Assassin (10:00)

MANUEL'S Leticia Rodriguez (11:30am)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Rockin' Gospel Project (noon)

MEAN-EYED CAT Honky Tonk Valentine's w/ Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS Carl Crowther (7:30)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Liz Morphis (6:30)

NUEVO LEÓN Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Ady Hernandez & Miguel McDonald, Cale Richardson (8:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Uranium Savages (7:00)

RED 7 Color Neutral, Let the Dead, Pay at the Pump, Head Crusher R

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Th 11 Ron Brietzke 6pm
The Blue Hit, Henry & the Invisibles 10pm
Fr 12 Bill Jerram 6pm
The Skeletons, Sasquatch Holler 10pm
Sa 13 The Organics, Flatcar Rattlers, The Black Ride 9pm
Su 14 Open Mic w/ Grant, Holly & Nate 8pm
Mo 15 The Christophers 6pm
Smarty Pants - Trivia Contest 8pm
Tu 16 Robbie Doyen 6pm
Grimy Styles, Equals 10pm
We 17 Coke Hendry 6pm Electric Mayhem 10pm

ENCORE

611 RED RIVER • WWW.ENCOREATX.COM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11
LASERZ • BLOODY KNIVES
REAL BOOK, FAKE BOOK (DOORS 8PM)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12
RAZR13 • BLOOD FOR MASTER
PLAGUE OF '98 • SILHOUETTE (DOORS 8PM)

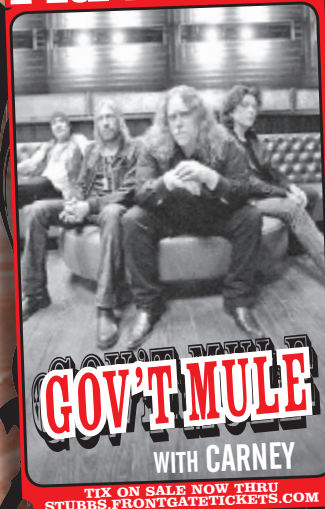
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13
LOTUS SOCIETY • LUCID DEMENTIA
LUST MURDER BOX • STRUCK (DOORS 8PM)

CATCH THE BRIMMERS EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT!

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FRI FEB 19



GOV'T MULE
WITH CARNEY
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WED FEB 24



KILLSWITCH ENGAGE
dark tranquillity
TIX ON SALE NOW THRU
STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRI FEB 26



Rebelution
WINTER TOUR
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
SOJA
ZION-I
TIX ON SALE NOW THRU
STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SAT FEB 27



BAD TO THE BONE
CHEF
SMACKDOWN
BENEFIT FOR THE
• SUSTAINABLE
FOOD CENTER •
FEATURING MUSIC FROM
DJ EL JOHN SELECTOR AND
CHARANGA CAKEWALK
TIX ON SALE NOW THRU
STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

IN THE CLUB

THU FEB 11 — DOORS 9PM
RETRIBUTION
GOSPEL CHOIR
WITH THE TUNNELS
FRI FEB 12 — DOORS 9PM
MANIFESTO
WITH PREY FOR SLEEP
AND BRINK OF DISASTER
SAT FEB 13 — DOORS 9PM
VALENTINE'S EVE PARTY
WITH WHITE DRESS
THE MERCERS
AND THE SOUR NOTES
SUN FEB 14

WED MAR 3



Dropkick Murphys
WITH STRUNG OUT
AND LARRY AND HIS FLASK
TIX ON SALE NOW THRU
STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRI MAR 5



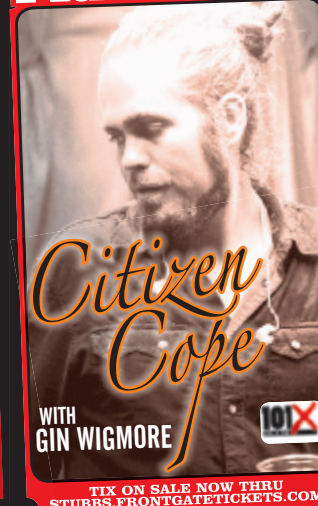
STATE RADIO
LET IT GO
TIX ON SALE NOW THRU
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SAT MAR 6



DARK STAR ORCHESTRA
RECREATING
THE GRATEFUL DEAD
EXPERIENCE
TIX ON SALE NOW THRU
STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRI MAR 12



Citizen Cope
WITH GIN WIGMORE
TIX ON SALE NOW THRU
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GOSPEL BRUNCH
WITH
THE DURDENS

TUES FEB 16 — DOORS 9PM
DALLAS MOORE
& THE SNATCH WRANGLERS
WITH SLOW DOWN LADY
THU FEB 18 — DOORS 9PM
AUSTIN360 CONCERT SERIES:
ZOOKEEPER
WITH THE BOXING LESSON
AND NEW ROMAN TIMES
FRI FEB 19 — DOORS 11:30PM
GOV'T MULE AFTERSHOW:
DERTYBIRD

SAT FEB 20 — DOORS 9PM
THE MAG SEVEN
AND **PHOENIX DOWN**
WITH LONGWOODSON

WED FEB 24 — DOORS 10PM
KILLSWITCH ENGAGE AFTERSHOW:
COURSE OF RUIN
FREE W/ KILLSWITCH ENGAGE TIX

THU FEB 25 — DOORS 9PM
MATT HIRES
WITH JASON CASTRO
(FROM AMERICAN IDOL)
AND CAITLIN CROSBY

FRI FEB 26 — DOORS 11:30PM
REBELUTION AFTERSHOW:
SUBROSA UNION
FREE W/ REBELUTION TIX

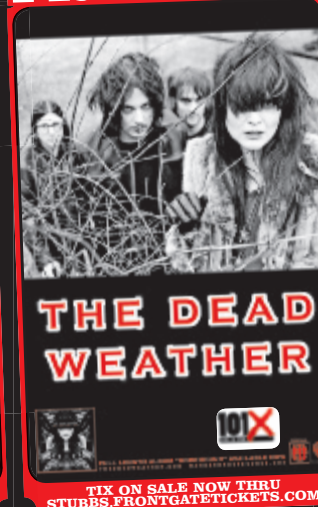
SAT FEB 27 — DOORS 9:30PM
BLACK BONE CHILD
WITH AMPLIFIED HEAT
AND BEST LOVE IN TOWN

TUE MAR 16



motorhead
THE SWORD
YEAR LONG DISASTER
TIX ON SALE FRI 2/12 @ 10AM THRU
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FRI APR 30



THE DEAD WEATHER
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SUN MAY 2



NORAH JONES
In Concert
2ND SHOW ADDED
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SAT MAY 8



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UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY

ART BY ERIC ANDERSON
 • THURSDAY // 10PM
CONTINENTAL GRAFFITI
 • FRIDAY SATURDAY & SUNDAY // 10PM
MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO
 FRIDAY & SATURDAY WITH
DENNY FREEMAN & FROSTY
 • SUNDAY
 10PM **MIKE, DEREK O'BRIEN & KYLE THOMPSON**
 8:30PM **JON DEE GRAHAM**
 • MONDAY
 11PM **BRUCE JAMES SOULTET**
THE DOWNTOWN RULERS CLUB
 9:30PM **TUESDAY FAT TUESDAY! // 10PM**
EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE
 • WEDNESDAY
 10PM **TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZ**

THUR
FEBRUARY 11
HAPPY HOUR
PLANET CASPER
 12:30AM **LEO RONDEAU**
 11:15PM **FRANK SMITH**
MIKE & THE MOON PIES
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12
HAPPY HOUR
THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS
 10PM **JAKE ANDREWS**
 12AM **GUITAR SHORTY**
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13
MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT
 12AM **ELEVEN HUNDRED SPRINGS**
CD RELEASE PARTY
DOUG MORELAND
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14
SUPER COUNTRY FEATURING
REDD VOLKAERT AND THE BOYS!
 10PM **HEYBALE**
MONDAY FEBRUARY 15
H. H. Olivier Giraud's Continental Graffiti
DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS
 10PM **TONI PRICE**
H. H. 6:30
FAT TUESDAY!
MUDPHONIC THE GREYHOUNDS
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17
H. H. 12AM
STONE RIVER BOYS
DUSTIN WELCH
 10:30PM **JON DEE GRAHAM**
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18
HAPPY HOUR
PLANET CASPER
 12:30AM **FASTBALL**
 11:15PM **TOM GILLAM**
STEPHANIE HATFIELD AND HOT MESS
FRIDAY FEB 19
H. H. 10PM
THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS
SOUL REBELS
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20
MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT
 11:30PM **DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS**
JEFF HUGHES AND CHAPARRAL
 9:30PM **BRASS BAND**
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21
DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS
JEFF HUGHES AND CHAPARRAL
 9:30PM **BRASS BAND**
COMING SOON
2/27 SANDY BRAMHALL 3/6 PONG BLACK
3/12-13 JOE LEWIS
1315 S. CONGRESS • OPEN: TUES.-FRI. 4PM • SAT. 3PM • SUN. 9PM • 441-2444

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SUNDAY

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt, DJ Cauze-One (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen

ROADHOUSE RAGS Deuce Coupe, Beautiful Mistakes, Twilight Hotel (6:00)

RUTA MAYA Big Don (10:30am), Ritmo 3 (8:30)

SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER Lady Friends No. 5 w/ Amanda h.b. Jones, Omebi, Gardenella (7:30) ⚡

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Lucky Strikes

SAXON PUB Lincoln Durham, the Resentments, the Highway

SPEAKEASY Tavana (9:30) ⚡

STUBB'S Gospel Brunch w/ the Durdens (11:00am)

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Austin Friends of Traditional Music (2:00)

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Mirage Jazz Ensemble (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Grant Ewing, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Jeff Lofton (11:00am)

WHIP IN Southpaw Jones ♪ (8:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Bruce James Soultet (10:00); In the Club: Continental Graffiti (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Milkdrive, Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (6:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallagher (8:00)

1ST DOWN & STASSNEY SPORTS BAR Songwriter Showcase w/ Brother T. Jubilee Gospel, Michael Jackson, Marvin Bottera, Eric Jones

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Strange Brew Showcase w/ Robert Steel (8:00)

THE GHOST ROOM D-Madness (6:30) ⚡

GRUENE HALL Bret Graham (6:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL Woodsboss, Leo Rondeau (10:00)

IRON GATE LOUNGE The Harringtons (10:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE Sun Salutations, Trippin' Out West (9:00) ⚡

MEAN-EYED CAT Autumn Boukadakis (7:00)

MINGS CAFE Paula Nelson (8:00)

MOMO'S La Tampiquena, Warren Hood, Darren Hoff

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson (8:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Jo Hell & the Red Roosters

RED FEZ DJ Cause-One & DJ Taco (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Dance Lessons, the Jitterbug Vipers (8:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Blues Jam w/ Breck English (8:35)

SAXON PUB Matt the Electrician ♪, Nelo, Jeff Plankenhorn

T.C.'S LOUNGE Little Elmore Reed

TRIPLE CROWN The Christophers (6:00)

TUE 16

ANTONE'S Blue Tuesday w/ Gary Clark Jr. (8:30)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Experimental Improv

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith

BEERLAND Woodsboss, Darren Hoff & the Hard Times, Jenny & the Corn Ponies

BLU Joey Colarusso Trio (7:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Billy Garza

CACTUS CAFE Mike Doughty ⚡

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Midnight River Choir (9:00), Josh Abbott CD Release (10:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ephraim Owens Experience (10:00); In the Club: Toni Price (6:30), Mudphonic (10:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Tameca Jones (6:00)

EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00)

ELYSIUM Nineties Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EMO'S War Between Oceans, Thieves, Fire From the Gods, In Fear & Wrath ⚡

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30), Ponty Bone (10:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Milkdrive (6:00), Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Nic Armstrong ♪, the Happen-Ins (9:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jim Stringer & the AM Band (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Drew Kennedy, Rodney Hayden (6:00) ⚡

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Jon Burkland

MON 15

ANTONE'S Help Us Help Will Sexton w/ Stephen Doster, Bill Carter, Charlie Faye, Bukka Allen, Kurt Neumann, Bill Carter & the Blame, Abra Moore, Jimmy LaFave, Victoria Williams, Patty Griffin, Eliza Gilkyson, Terry Allen, Roky Erickson (7:00) ⚡

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Jonathan Horne

BAR 141 Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Heard Showcase

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30)

Monday Special \$2 Drafts

Daily Happy Hour 6-8p • Live Music 7 Nights

EVERY WEEK!
 SUN The Inheritance
 MON Strange Brew
 TUE Erik Hokkanen
 WED George Carver and Graham Wilkinson
 THU Open Mic

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BROKEN SPOKE
 WE DON'T FANCY, BUT WE'RE BORN SHURE COUNTRY!

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442-6189
 PHOTO BY M. DAPRA

THU, FEB 11 6-8PM **TONY HARRISON**
 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
 9PM **JESSE DAYTON**

FRI, FEB 12 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
 9PM **CORNELL HURD**

SAT, FEB 13 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
 9:30PM **DALE WATSON**

TUE, FEB 16 **BILLY GARZA** NO COVER

WED, FEB 17 6-8PM **VINCE MORENO**
 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
 9PM **DALE WATSON**

MONDAY MARCH 1ST
ROCK YOUR BRAINS OUT
 A BENEFIT FOR
CHRIS WARE
BAND OF HEATHENS
CHARLIE SEXTON
REDD VOLKAERT
AND MUCH MORE!

Antone's
 AUSTIN, TEXAS

WEDNESDAY FEB 24TH
KINKY FRIEDMAN
 WITH WALT WILKINS
 DRIVER, DARREN HOFF
 AND THE HARD TIMES
 ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11TH
HOWIE DAY
SERENA RYDER
 ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRIDAY FEB 12TH CD RELEASE SHOW
RECKLESS KELLY WITH THE TRISHAS
 ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

MARCH 12TH & 13TH
JIMMIE VAUGHAN
 2 BIG NITES!
 ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY FEB 13TH
 COME CELEBRATE LOU ANN'S BIRTHDAY
CAROLYN WONDERLAND
AND LOU ANN BARTON
 BIRTHDAY PARTY AND SHOW!
 ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM DOORS 7/SHOW 8 | VIP TABLES

SATURDAY FEB 13TH
WHITE DENIM
 RSVP AT DOS12.COM FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A VIP TABLE & TICKETS
 ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM DOORS 10:30/SHOW 11PM

MONDAY FEB 15TH
WE WANNA HELP WILL SEXTON!
PATTY GRIFFIN
ROKY ERICKSON
BILL CARTER & THE BLAME
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George Devore 10pm \$5
 Hector Ward & the Big Time 8pm \$7
Reid Wilson
 and his So Called Friends 12am \$5
 David Holt, Tommy Shannon, Frosty and Special Guests 8pm Happy Hour No Cover

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH www.frontgategickets.com
Glen Phillips from
 Toad the Wet Sprocket
 9pm \$20 Adv/\$25 Door
Love at War 11:30pm \$7
 Ricky Stein 12:45am
 No Cover Happy Hour Earl Poole Ball & The Cosmic Americans 8pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH
Micky & the Motorears 10pm \$10
THE RESENTMENTS
 With Special Guest David Grissom 8pm \$10
Brian Pounds 12:30am

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH Sold Out Show
Hayes Carll
 Doors Open at 7pm Show starts at 7:30 John Evans
 Clay McClinton 10:30pm \$5
 The Highway 12am \$5

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH
Bob Schneider
 Solo 8:30 \$10
Matt the Electrician 7pm \$10
 Jeff Plankenhorn 11pm \$5
 Steven Ray Will 12:30am \$5

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH
BRUCE HUGHES
 & THE ALL NUDE ARMY 8pm \$5
Deadman 10pm \$5
 Aaron Barrera 12am \$5
 No Cover Happy Hour Waylon Payne

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH
Walt Wilkins
 & the Mystiqueros 10pm \$10
Ouachita 12am \$5
 Ginger Leigh 8pm \$10
 No Cover Happy Hour The Nortons

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH
 An evening with the music of
Stephen Bruton
 live on KGSr's LSSOM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH
George Harrison's Birthday
 \$12 Advance/\$15 Door

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH
Patrice Pike

FRIDAY, MARCH 12TH
Joe Ely

Throwback Thursdays

+++



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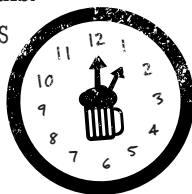
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SAT. FEBRUARY 13 *REGGAE* DOORS 9:00
ASHES OF BABYLON
WE ARE HALF NELSON

WED. FEBRUARY 17 *REGGAE/COUNTRY* DOORS 8:00
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02.19: WONDER WOMEN NIGHT! WITH SWEET MEAT SERAFIA JANE, TRISH BALES & THE BEAUTIFUL DOLLS, MERRY GO-ROUND
02.20: LOS SKARNALES, BENNY VS. BEAST CO RELEASE, THE BANDULUS, PROPER VILLAIN
02.23: SINGER SONGWRITER SERIES KICK OFF!
02.24: DREADNECK NITE, NO COVER!
02.25: THE BOB FLOYD BAND

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM TUESDAY

HOLE IN THE WALL Clyde & Clem's Whiskey Business (10:00)

JOVITA'S Hector Uribe Benefit w/ Melancholy Ramblers (6:30)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Diamond Tip, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Chris Brecht & the Dead Flowers (8:00)

MOHAWK Ghost Knife, Pine Hill Haints (10:00) ①

MOMO'S Hard Proof Afrobeat ①, La Guerilla, Frederico & the Hashashins

ONE 2 ONE BAR Farlow, Meagan Tubb (8:30)

THE PARISH Stereo Is a Lie (8:00)

THE PARLOR Hidden Objects (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Sand Sheff (7:30)

RED 7 The Stampede, Everyday Massacre, Snake Handler, Atom Age, the Devil Rides ①

RED FEZ DJ Manny (9:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Molly Hayes
RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic,
Music Open Mic (6:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Michael Welch (8:30)

SAXON PUB Waylon Payne (5:00) ①, Bruce Hughes & the All-Nude Army, Deadman, Aaron Barrera (8:00)

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Ember (9:00)

SPEAKEASY O Positivo (9:30)

STEINER RANCH STEAKHOUSE Kent Mayhew ①

STUBB'S Slow Down Lady ①, Dallas Moore & the Snatch Wranglers (9:00)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER Dust Bowl Dreamers (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Robbie Doyen, Grimy Styles ①

TROPHY'S Armadillo Road, Singer-Songwriter Night (9:00)

WED 17

ANNIES CAFE & BAR

Tango Night w/ Glover Gill (7:30)

ANTONE'S Much Love, Ryan Harkrider (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE The J&A Show w/ Jon Emery (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Trent Turner (10:00)

BEERLAND Closet Drama, Come & Take It, Monkey Town

BESO CANTINA Gustavo Rodriguez Band (11:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Vince Moreno, Dance Lessons, Dale Watson (6:00)

CACTUS CAFE Mike Doughty ①②

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Harrison Brown (7:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)

CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)

THE COCKPIT Club Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Jon Blondell, Trube, Farrell & Sniz (8:00); In the Club: Stone River Boys (6:30) ①, Jon Dee Graham (10:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Bruce Smith (6:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00)

ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister

EMO'S Outside: Call the Cops, Stereo Skyline, There for Tomorrow, Rocket to the Moon, Mayday Parade, We the Kings; Inside: Brother Machine, Bad Lovers, the Bubbles, A Giant Dog ①

ENCORE The Brimmers

EVANGELINE CAFE Mark Viator & Susan Maxey (7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Stop the Truck, Mau Mau Chaplains (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE George Carver, Dennis Ludiker, Jarrett Killen (6:00)

FRANK & ANGIE'S PIZZERIA Flying Balalaika Brothers ① (7:30)

FRIENDS J.T. Coldfire, Swamp Sauce (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Stewart Mann & the Statesboro Revue (6:00)

HANOVER'S 8 Ball Down (8:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Jenny & the Corn Ponies, Beth Lee, Slackey Family Band (10:00)

KEY BAR Jukebox Heroes (8:00)

LA PALAPA Acoustic w/ James Lamberts The Moonhangers (7:00), Amy Cook (10:30)

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Jeff Lofton, Ben Burgess (5:30), Lance Kotara, Adam McInnis, Stephanie Daulong ① (10:00)

Feb 24th
KUT Welcomes
Brendan Benson
(of the Raconteurs)
w/ Leatherbag and Michael Kingcaid
(of What Made Milwaukee Famous)
tix thru c3presents.frontgatetickets.com

2/11 Carousel Cabaret presents VD Extravagasm!
2/12 Speak @ Digital Love
2/13 Footpatrol, Fresh Millions, Zorch and Learning Secrets
2/18 Dre Day w/ DJ Mel & Prince Klassen
2/19 Mystik Journeymen
2/20 Nina Simone Tribute

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12
OTIS COLEMAN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13
BAD RODEO

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14
URANIUM SAVAGES 7-10PM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18
SCOTT WAYNE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19
MARDI GRAS PARTY W/ PELLLOT FIRES

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Th 2/11 - Ringo Deathstarr, Cowabunga Babez, International Waters, w/ Learning Secrets & guest DJ Rames of Voxrot (Baseera's Birthday!) - 10pm
F 2/12 - Follow that Bird, The Monarchs, Wine and Revolution, English Teeth - 10pm
Sa 2/13 - Nouvelle Vague (France), Pataphysics, Candi & the Strangers & DJ Manolo Black - 9pm (out) // Joe Jack Talcum (of Dead Milkmen), Lord Grunge (Grand Buffet), DJ Jester, The Bassturd - 10pm (in)
Su 2/14 - Church O'Fire w/ Ripe, Happen Ins, White Rhino - 10pm
Tu 2/16 - Pinehill Haints, Ghost Knife - 10pm
W 2/17 - The Happen-Ins, Til We're Blue or Destroy, Baker Family - 10pm
Th 2/18 - Strangers, FM Campers, Zorch, Plutonium Farmers - 10pm

for info on upcoming tours, check out www.transmissionentertainment.com

RED7
611 east 7th venue & wreck room

Th 2/11 - Skrefix, Ruins of Horror, Vows in Ashes, Slay the Dawn - 10pm
F 2/12 - FANG, You People, Me vs Everybody, Capital Scam, Women in Prison, Blank Generation - 9pm
Sa 2/13 - British Invasion 2! w/ Girl in a Coma, The Hi-Tones, Planet Rye Co., Ripe & DJ Scorpio - 10pm
Su 2/14 - Head Crusher, Pay at the Pump, Let the Dead, Color Neutral - 10pm
Tu 2/16 - The Devil Rides, The Atom Age (CA), Snake Handler, Everyday Massacre, The Stampede - 8pm
W 2/17 - EARLY: The Dicks, Shanghai River, Naw Dude - 8pm // DJ Logatraz (Motherfucker)
Th 2/18 - Blacklisted 11pm, The Roller 10pm, The Burden 9pm // DJ Timmy Hefner

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Fri - 2/12

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w/ MoTel Aviv, Prayer For Animals, Politics,

Sat - 2/13

Rock the Casbah

w/ DJ Mel

Tues - 2/16

Dart Music International Embassy

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w/ Nick Hirsch

Wed - 2/17

D Madness w/ Brannen Temple,

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Fri - 2/19

The Austin Chronicle's Chrontourage
& KVRX Present



The Bright Light Social Hour
w/ Zlam Dunk & The Couch

Sat - 2/20

Dreamtime Production Presents

Signal Path w/ The Malah, DJ Thibault



Wed - 2/24



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Thurs - 2/25

Republic of Austin Presents

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w/ DJ Thibault DOORS @10PM

Fri - 2/26

Sleep Whale

w/ Mother Falcon, Lost River/Old River

Sat - 2/27

Austin Collins

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w/ Ruby James, Collin Herring

Sun - 3/1

Cadillac Sky w/ Betty Soo, Autumn

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BILL CARTER AND THE BLAME, CHARLIE SEXTON, DENNY FREEMAN
STEPHEN DOSTER, ABRA MOORE, WARREN HOOD
MICHAEL RAMOS, RUBY JAMES
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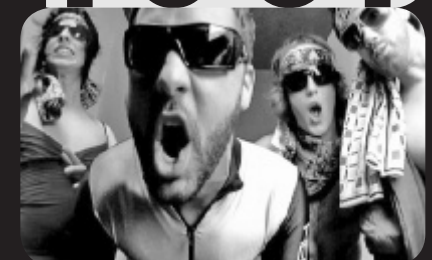
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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM WEDNESDAY

MEAN-EYED CAT Pee Wee Moore (8:00)

MOHAWK The Baker Family, Til We're Blue or Destroy, the Happen-Ins (10:00)

MOMO'S Ray Primm, Akina Adderley, Robin Smith, Ted, Sideshow Tragedy

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce Newman's Nutty Idol

ONE 2 ONE BAR Big Circle, TX, the Twalls, George Devore (8:00)

THE PARISH Bavu Blakes, Brannen Temple, D-Madness (9:00) ⓂⓇ

THE PARLOR Mark Jungers, Eric Hisaw (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Mark Alan (7:30)

PLUSH Weight w/ the Herd

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Mark Allen Atwood

RABBIT'S LOUNGE Johnny Moeller & J. Moeller (9:00)

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED 7 Naw Dude, Shanghai River, the Dicks (8:00) ⓂⓇ

RED FEZ Get Right Kids (10:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Jack Higginbotham

RUSTY SPURS Open Mic Jam (9:00)

RUTA MAYA Dance Lessons, La Mona Loca (7:30)

SAXON PUB The Nortons (6:00), Ginger Leigh, Ouachita, Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros (8:00) Ⓡ

SPEAKEASY Soulution (9:30)

T.C.'S LOUNGE Soul Track Mind, Austin Heat

TRIPLE CROWN Coke Hendry (6:00), Electric Mayhem (10:00)

TROPHY'S J.T. Wright & Solstice

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan (7:00)

WATERLOO RECORDS Brandon Rhyder (5:00)

Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

THU 18

ANTONE'S Deadman, Dertybird, Uncle Lucius (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Frankie J. Meyer (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Jimi Lee (8:00)

BEERLAND Bear Claw, OBN III's, Shapes Have Fangs, the Carrots Ⓡ

BLU Fredy Argir Trio (7:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton (6:00)

BROOKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Haiti Red Cross Relief Benefit, Black History Concert (5:30)

CACTUS CAFE Matthew Ryan Ⓜ

CAFE CAFFEINE Open Mic

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Steve Pack (7:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros (9:00)

CLUB 1808 The Bow-Legged Gorilla, MacGregor Burns Ⓡ

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Continental Graffiti (10:00); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30), Stephanie Hatfield & Hot Mess, Tom Gillam, Fastball (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Alan Durham (6:00)

EMO'S The Hi-Tones, the Explosives CD Release, The Ugly Beats (7:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Cleve & Sweet Mary Hattersley (7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Opposite Day (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy Campbell (6:00), Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettle (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Mary Ann & the Shaky Hands, Carley Wolf & the Howls, Monarchs (10:00)

LA PALAPA Triple Shot (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, the Statesboro Revue (6:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends (8:00)

MOHAWK Plutonium Farmers, Zorch, FM Campers, Strangers (10:00)

MOMO'S Clank, the Reliques, Player One, Lixbox, Rich Restaino & the Obits CD Release (9:30)

NEWORLEDELI Danny Britt (7:30)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Liz Morphis (6:30)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Felan, the HiDefs (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Jennifer Sullivan (7:30)

RED 7 The Burden, the Roller, Blacklisted Ⓡ

RED FEZ DJ Hobo D (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Ricky Stein

RUTA MAYA Fayuca, Don Chani, McPulish (9:00) Ⓡ

SAXON PUB David Holt & Tommy Shannon (6:00), Jess Torissi, George Devore, David Beck (8:00)

STUBB'S New Roman Times, the Boxing Lesson, Zookeeper (9:00)

T.C.'S LOUNGE Lisa Marshall (9:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Acoustic Open Mic

THUNDERBIRD COFFEE Naked Folk Collective (7:00)

TOM'S TABOOLEY Fractals (7:00)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER

Unstoppable, Chest Pain, Lockstep, the Separation (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Bruce Smith, the Lonely H, Olive Street Ⓡ

TROPHY'S Chris Toast, the Death Kings, Scott Reynolds

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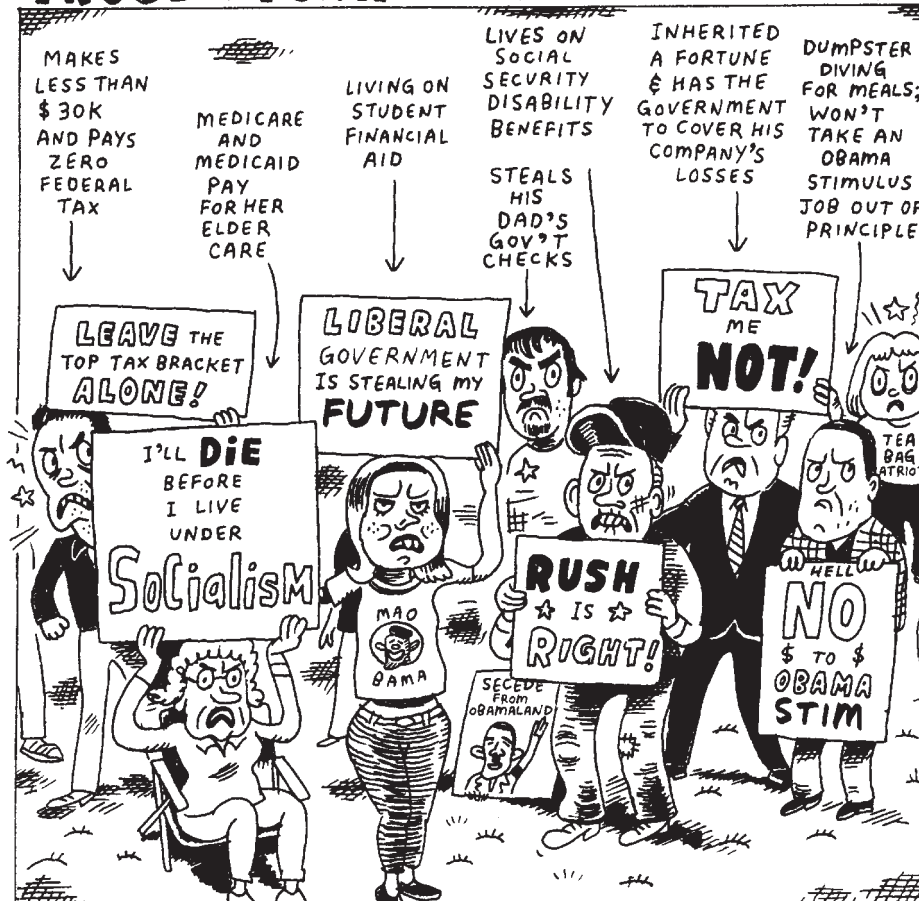
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MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



Edgar Allan Poe sold "The Raven" to a newspaper for \$15.

In Turkey, cell phone numbers on business cards are labeled "GSM" instead of "cell."

Apple brandy in Lower Normandy France is known as "calvados." Combine it with apple sorbet and you've got "le trou Normand" ("the Norman hole"), a small drink served between courses that's supposed to re-awaken the appetite.

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What do Hijab, Niqab, Burqa, Al-Amira, Shayla, Khimar, and Chador all have in common? They are all different styles of headscarves worn by Muslim women.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

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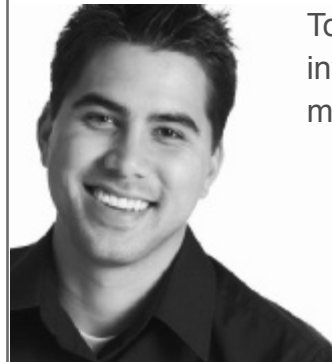
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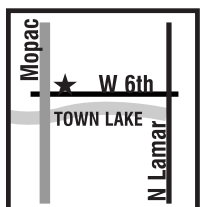
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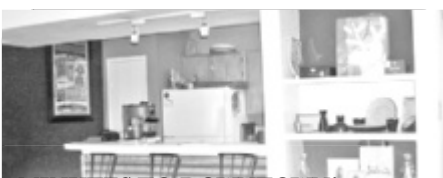


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legal notices

CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-09-001658 IN THE ESTATE OF HORACE VOIT MOSS, DECEASED IN THE PROBATE COURT NO. 1 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of HORACE VOIT MOSS Deceased, were issued on February 4, 2010 in Cause Number C1-PB-09-001658, in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas to DONNA MARIA MOSS.

Claims may be presented in care of the Executor of the Estate addressed as follows:

The address of record for DONNA MARIA MOSS is 2401 Braemar Cove, Austin, Texas 78747.

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 4th day of February, 2010.

/s/ DONNA MARIA MOSS, Executor of the Estate of HORACE VOIT MOSS, Deceased

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MARY KAREN ROOT PRUETT Deceased, No. C-1-PB-10-000213 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

TIMMY BUCHANAN PRUETT and all The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on February 05, 2010, an Application for Independent Administration of Estate and for Declaration of Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine

who are the heirs and only heirs of the said MARY KAREN ROOT PRUETT, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on February 05, 2010.

Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. BOX 149325 AUSTIN, TX 78714-9325 By Deputy: /s/ O. RUIZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MARVA YVONNE BUSTER, Cause No. 09-0683-CP4 in County Court at Law #4 of Williamson County, 405 Martin Luther King Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626.

WAYNE BUSTER, Applicant in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 3rd day of December, 2009 AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP of the said estate and requests that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said MARVA YVONNE BUSTER, Deceased, and their respective shares and interest in such estate.

Said application will be heard at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on or after the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse Annex in Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of office at Georgetown, Texas, this 7th day of December, 2009.

Nancy E. Rister

Williamson County Clerk

405 MLK Street, Box 14

Georgetown, TX 78626

By: /s/ Dianne M. Flores, Deputy

Applicant's Attorney

TERRY DAVIS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

201 S BELL BLVD STE 101

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF RONALD EUGENE NEITZKE, Cause No. 09-0677-CP4 in County Court at Law #4 of Williamson County, 405 Martin Luther King Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626.

BRENDA M. NEITZKE, Applicant in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 10th day of December, 2009 AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP of the said estate and requests that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said RONALD EUGENE NEITZKE, Deceased, and their respective shares and interest in such estate.

Said application will be heard at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on or after the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse Annex in Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of office at Georgetown, Texas, this 10th day of December, 2009.

Nancy E. Rister

Williamson County Clerk

405 MLK Street, Box 14

Georgetown, TX 78626

By: /s/ Sheridan Perdue, Deputy

Applicant's Attorney

TERRY DAVIS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

201 S BELL BLVD STE 101

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF EUNICE MARIE PATTON Deceased, No. C-1-PB-10-000184 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Texas.

TRAVIS LEE JACKSON JR. The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on February 02, 2010, an Application to Determine Heirship & Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said EUNICE MARIE PATTON, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on February 02, 2010.

Dana DeBeauvoir

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By Deputy: /s/ MONICA LIM-ON



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car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

TOM AND RAY WEIGH IN ON LEAD WEIGHTS

Dear Tom and Ray:

It turns out that lead wheel weights are the biggest source of lead in California's waterways. There is a bill that would ban them in favor of safer alternatives, especially stainless steel. My question is: Exactly what do wheel weights do? I know they are used to balance the wheels, but what exactly does that mean? — Ang

RAY: Wheel and tire combinations are not born balanced, Ang. In that way, they're like my brother.

TOM: Right. But unlike me, wheels and tires can be balanced fairly easily. When we say "balanced," we mean that the weight of the wheel-tire combination is evenly distributed so the wheel won't wobble.

RAY: When a steel wheel or a rubber tire comes off the assembly line, it doesn't always come out perfectly. Oh, it's close. So close that if you drove on it at speeds up to 30 or 35 mph, it would seem perfect, and you'd never know the difference.

TOM: But once you get up to 40 mph or so, those small imperfections in weight balance will make your car shake like a half-prepared fruit smoothie still whirling around in the blender.

RAY: Why are these products not perfect? The metal or rubber poured into the mold might not be entirely homogeneous — meaning the materials used might not be blended perfectly. Think about pancake batter and the occasional pocket of flour you come across. It's not that extreme in wheel and tire production, but it doesn't take much of an imperfection to be noticeable at high speeds.

TOM: And rather than perfect the production process of every tire and wheel made on the planet, it's a lot cheaper to balance the tires after the fact with a few cents' worth of lead weights.

RAY: Right. If you were manufacturing wheels for gyroscopes to be used in space lasers and the future of life on Earth depended on them, then sure, you'd use much more expensive equipment and make the parts come out perfectly. But wheels and tires for cars don't need to rise to that standard.

TOM: But there's absolutely no reason why tire dealers and repair shops can't use stainless or "powdered" steel weights instead of lead weights. They work just as well, they don't leach lead into our drinking water, and they cost almost the same, maybe a few pennies more.

RAY: A number of states have already banned lead weights, and I suspect the rest, including California, will soon follow. We're all for it.

* * *

If you buy a used car, will you just be inheriting the previous owner's problem? Tom and Ray dispel this and other myths about used cars in their pamphlet "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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continued legal notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF AURORA MORENO, Deceased, No. C-1-PB-10-000214 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

BERTHA MORENO MARTINEZ and all The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on February 05, 2010, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said AURORA MORENO, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said

estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on February 05, 2010.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325

By Deputy: /s/ O. RUIZ

D-1-GV-09-000005

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353RD District Court of Travis County, on the 21st day of January, 2010 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-09-000005, wherein CITY OF LAGO VISTA, LAGO VISTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, LAGO VISTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DIS-

TRICT COUNTY EDUCATION DISTRICT, TRAVIS COUNTY, TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1, TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT are plaintiffs, and New Deal Investments, if active and if inactive the unknown owners, agents, shareholders and officers of New Deal Investments are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 49476 = \$14,176.44, Tract Two: Billing Number 49477 = \$15,542.46, Tract Three: Billing Number 49776 = \$22,965.28, Tract Four: Billing Number 49777 = \$16,655.30** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 353RD District Court of Travis County, Texas, on November 20, 2009.

I, on the 27th day of January, 2010, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of March, 2010 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

TRACT ONE:

Billing No.49476

Legal Description:LOT 14019, HIGHLAND LAKE ESTATES, SECTION 14, PLAT NO. 51/80 AS DESC. IN VOL. 10730, PG. 688 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

TRACT TWO:

Billing No.49477

Legal Description:LOT 14018, HIGHLAND LAKE ESTATES, SECTION 14, PLAT NO. 51/80 AS DESC. IN VOL. 10730, PG. 657 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

TRACT THREE:

Billing No.49776

Legal Description:LOT 15116, HIGHLAND LAKE ESTATES, SECTION 15, PLAT NO. 55/55 AS DESC. IN VOL. 10730, PG. 684 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

TRACT FOUR:

Billing No.49777

Legal Description:LOT 15115, HIGHLAND LAKE ESTATES, SECTION 15, PLAT NO. 55/55 AS DESC. IN VOL. 10730, PG. 686 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 49476 = \$14,176.44, Tract Two: Billing Number 49477 = \$15,542.46, Tract Three: Billing Number 49776 = \$22,965.28, Tract Four: Billing Number 49777 = \$16,655.30** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 27th day of January, 2010.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Robert Eller DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

NO. C-1-PB-10-000065
IN THE ESTATE OF RODNEY DALE WAGGONER, SR., DECEASED
IN THE PROBATE COURT

NO. ONE OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF RODNEY DALE WAGGONER, SR. Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of RODNEY DALE WAGGONER, SR. were issued on the 2nd day of February, 2010 in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-000065 pending in the Probate Court #1 of Travis County, Texas to: WILLIAM RANDALL WAGGONER
WILLIAM RANDALL WAGGONER'S mailing address is: Randy Waggoner
167 Whistlers Cove Rd.
Rockport, TX 78382

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

WILLIAM RANDALL WAGGONER
By: /s/ Jerry Frank Jones,
Attorney

State Bar No. 10913000

400 W. 15th St., Suite 975

Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: (512) 476-2929

Fax: (512) 472-3669

NOTICE Schroeder Construction Company, Ltd. is soliciting bids from MBE/WBE Subcontractors for the following City of Austin Project: **North Shield Water Rehabilitation, CIP ID #2231.142** bidding February 18, 2010 at 11:30 AM. Area needed: Pipe, Fittings, Bedding Material, Hauling, Photos, Concrete & Erosion Control. Call Susan 512 219-6001 or fax your quote to 512 219-7977.

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of the Texas as Alcoholic Beverage Code that 2905 Pearce Road, LLC dba Ski Shores Cafe has filed an application with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission seeking issuance of a Mixed Beverage Permit to be located at 2905 Pearce Road, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78730. Managers of said company are Richard Engel and Mark Turner.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTHSIDE WRECKER, 8200 S CONGRESS, AUSTIN, TX. 78745.

2002 TRAILER 621M1915426
2009 MOPED LAEAAA10X3B911493
1994 OLDS 1G3AG5544R6434859

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant of the TX Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off by Public Auction unless charges

are satisfied within 10 days.

2002 FORD FOCUS

VIN: 1FAFP34P22W237870

ONTARIO LP: BAH4248

INTERSTATE CHAPARRAL TOWING INC.

1604 Howard Lane Austin, TX 78728 (512) 835-6580

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATIONS Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation: **SET MAXIMUM PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMITS AND PARKING PROHIBITIONS ON MEREDITH DRIVE IN PRECINCT THREE.**

Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposal action may make written request for a mandatory public hearing. Such request must be addressed to the Transportation and Natural Resources Department, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas, 78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Carlson Self Storage will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 a.m. on March 4, 2010 at 4714 Nueckels Crossing Rd., Austin, TX 78744. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. \$50 cleanup and removal deposit will be required. Property includes contents of spaces of following tenants: Larry Johnson-couch, dresser, chest, tools; Daniel Styes-dressers, ladders, rocking chair; Gilbert Moran-dressers, couch; Dale Limuel-furniture, boxes; Nora Soriano-household; Manual Avila-tools, truck tool box; Dennis Stewart-armoire, big screen tv; Yolanda Martinez-table, chairs, dresser, tires & rims, household; Evangelina Slover-furniture, household; Vickie Lovings-bed, boxes; Robert Castaneda-vanity, toys, crib; Gloria Serna-furniture, appliances; Pablo Lopez-floor tile and installation products; Maria Acosta-furniture, chairs, household; Aggie Davila-dressers, bed, household; Cristina Herencia-furniture, dressers; Cristina Herencia-boxes, chair, filing cabinet; Brenda Smith-couch, bed frames, dresser; Martha Ornelas-tables, chairs, boxes; David Zepeda-1978 GMC El Camino

The sale will begin at 11:30 AM on Friday, March 5, 2010. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from the sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in the spaces of the following tenants, with brief description of contents in each space.

Unit A001 / Susan Beard: Boxes, mattress, chairs, misc. household goods
Unit C032 / Carl Wayne Stevens: Household goods

D018 / Raymond Fennell: Piano, furniture, clothes, sofa, lamps, mattress

D039 / Rueben J. Villarreal: Sofa, tables

D155 / Timothy Moon: Boxes, bikes, vacuum, mattress, furniture, misc. household items

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ANGELA R. HOLMES, DECEASED

The administration of the estate of ANGELA R. HOLMES, Deceased has been commenced by the issuance of original Letters Testamentary to NICOLE HOLMES, whose address is 1120 Faircrest, Austin, Texas 78753 on October 20, 2009 by the Travis County Probate Court No. 1 acting in Cause No.

C-1-PB-09-001242, styled IN RE: ESTATE OF ANGELA R. HOLMES, DECEASED, in which Court the matter is pending. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby notified to present them within the time prescribed by law, addressed to the representative of the estate at the address shown above.

Dated this 5th day of February, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
LAW OFFICE OF JOHN F. CAMPBELL, P.C.

1601 Rio Grande, Suite 405
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 476-6036
(512) 478-8919 (Fax)

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF HOWARD L. LONG, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of HOWARD L. LONG, Deceased, were issued on January 21, 2010 in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001711, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of

U-Store-It #751
610 E. Stansney Lane
Austin, TX 78745
512-441-8300
David Baca, unit 2135 - boxes, chairs, ice chest, lamps,

Travis County, Texas to the estate's personal representative: GLADYS A. LONG

Claims may be presented and it is hereby instructed that claims be addressed to: Gladys A. Long, Independent Executor of the Estate of

Howard L. Long, Deceased, 1510 Betty Jo Drive, Austin, Texas 78704.

All persons having claims against the Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and manner prescribed by law.

By: /s/ Theodore E. Comsudi
Attorney for the Estate of
Howard L. Long, Deceased
5806 Mesa Drive, Suite 330
Austin, Texas 78731-3770
512-346-8556

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF MERLE
DEAN LENTZ, DECEASED**

The administration of the estate of MERLE DEAN LENTZ, Deceased has been commenced by the issuance of original Letters Testamentary to MARY ELLEN LENTZ, whose address is 1306 Cardinal Hill Circle, Austin, Texas 78758 on November 24, 2009 by the Travis County Probate Court No. 1 acting in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001535, styled IN RE: ESTATE OF MERLE DEAN LENTZ, DECEASED, in which Court the matter is pending. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby notified to present them within the time prescribed by law, addressed to the representative of the estate at the address shown above.

Dated this 5th day of February, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
LAW OFFICE OF JOHN F. CAMPBELL, P.C.

1601 Rio Grande, Suite 405
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 476-6036
(512) 478-8919 (Fax)

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA
O. WARREN**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PATRICIA O. WARREN were issued on February 4, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-000107, pending in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: TRACY P. WARREN

The address of such Administrator is 3103 Kerbey Lane, Austin, Texas 78703.

The Independent Executor directs that all claims against this Estate be addressed to: TRACY P. WARREN

Representative of the Estate of PATRICIA O. WARREN
c/o Nancy N. Scherer
Scherer & Scherer
602 West 13th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED this 4th day of February, 2010.

NANCY N. SCHERER
SCHERER & SCHERER
602 WEST 13TH STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

ATTORNEYS FOR THE INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF JOHN
WESLEY CHILCUTT, JR.**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Wesley Chilcutt, Jr., Deceased, were issued on February 4, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-000083, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to the estate's independent executor without bond, Penny

Coseriu-Chilcutt. All persons having claims against the estate currently being administered are required to present them within the time required

by law. Claims should be addressed in care of the representative's attorney, Lawrence A. Russell, 9951 Anderson Mill Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78750. Dated this the 4th day of February, 2010.

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF JEAN
ANDREWS, DECEASED**

Notice is hereby given that Cause No. C-1-PB-10-000045, styled Estate of Jean Andrews, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on January 28, 2010, to J P Morgan Chase Bank, NA.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representative of the estate in care of his attorneys at the following address:

c/o GRAVES, DOUGHERTY,
HEARON & MOODY
A Professional Corporation
Attn: Kevin Holcomb
P.O. Box 98
401 Congress, Suite 2200
Austin, Texas 78767-0098

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 2nd day of February, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
GRAVES, DOUGHERTY,
HEARON & MOODY,
A Professional Corporation
P.O. Box 98
401 Congress, Suite 2200
Austin, Texas 78767-0098

512.480.5627 Telephone
512.480.5827 Fax
By: /s/ Kevin Holcomb
State Bar ID No.: 09824000

ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BARBARA I. MAD-

DEN, Deceased, were issued on January 12, 2010, in Docket No. 09-0707-CP4, pending in the Probate Court of Williamson County, Texas, to PAULA J. DILLARD, Independent Executor. The address of record is c/o Michele Dunlap, Attorney, 5910 Courtyard Dr., Ste. 105, Austin, TX 78731. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary of the Estate of Marian E. Braun, Deceased, were issued on February 4, 2010 in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-000032, pending in Travis County Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas, to Louis D. Braun, III, Independent Executor. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present them to Richard Thormann, Attorney at Law, 805 West 10th Street, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78701 within the time prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of RALPH L. STAPPER, Deceased, were issued on January 28, 2010, in Docket No. C-1-PB-10-000053, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to JOHN L. STAPPER, Independent Executor. The address of record is c/o Michele Dunlap, Attorney, 5910 Courtyard Dr., Ste. 105, Austin, Texas 78731. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOYCE DEAN KUBALA, Deceased, were issued on February 4, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001663, pending in the

Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: EDWARD F. KUBALA.

The residence of the Executor is in Travis County, Texas, and the post office address is:

c/o TRAVIS BRENT HULL
LAW OFFICE OF TRAVIS
BRENT HULL, PLLC
808 W. 11th Street
Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 5th day of February, 2010.

/s/ TRAVIS BRENT HULL, Attorney for EDWARD F. KUBALA, Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Donna Loyless Hayes, Deceased, were issued on February 2, 2010, in Docket No. C-1-PB-10-000071, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Bascom Barry Hayes.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims shall be addressed to: Representative, Estate of Donna Loyless Hayes

c/o John W. Brodnax
John W. Brodnax, P.C.
1202 Lakeway Drive, Suite 1
Lakeway, Texas 78734
(512) 261-0101
DATED the 3rd day of February, 2010.

/s/ John W. Brodnax
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary

for the Estate of Charles Harley Hedgepeth, Deceased, were issued on January 26, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-000003, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, TRAVIS County, Texas, to: Richard John Hedgepeth

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Richard John Hedgepeth
1824 S. IH 35, Apt. #262
Austin, Texas 78704

DATED the 4th day of February, 2010.

/s/ Stephen Counts
Attorney for Richard John Hedgepeth
State Bar No.: 04888700
901 S. Mopac
Bldg. 1 Ste. 300
Austin, TX 78746

Telephone: (512) 329-0151
Facsimile: (512) 326-2704

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of VAROON-GARN PANJAVAN, Deceased, were issued on November 17, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001069 pending in the Probate Court No. 1, TRAVIS County, Texas, to: ARTI PANJAVAN.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Eric Willie
Attorney at Law
3755 Capital of Texas Hwy.
Suite 295
Austin, TX 78704
DATED the 9th day of February, 2010.

/s/ Eric Willie
Attorney for ARTI PANJAVAN
State Bar No.: 24043491

3755 Capital of Texas Hwy
Suite 295
Austin, TX 78704
Telephone: (512) 478-0834
Facsimile: (512) 416-7070

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration with Will Annexed for the Estate of Jesse E. Euresti, Deceased, were issued on February 4, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-000543, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Rachel Rios.

The address of the Independent Administrator with Will Annexed is in Austin, Travis County, Texas. The mailing address is: c/o Scofield & Scofield, P.C., 1411 West Avenue, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78701-1537.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 4th day of February, 2010.

Scofield & Scofield, P.C.
Attorneys for the Estate
By: /s/ Joe Fulwiler

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the

Estate of Sharon Carol Devenney, Deceased, were issued on February 4, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001782, pending in the Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to: Susan Wiederspahn.

The residence of the Independent Administrator is in Austin, Travis County, Texas; the mailing address is:

c/o: Catherine A. Mauzy
Attorney at Law
700 Lavaca Street, Suite 1150
Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate which is

currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED February 4, 2010.

/s/ Catherine A. Mauzy
Attorney for the Estate
State Bar No. 13239400

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF FRANCES KATHERINE HERZIK, Deceased, were issued to GUS R. HERZIK, JR. and CATH-LYN JANE GILBERT on January 28, 2010, under Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001701, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Estate of Frances Katherine Herzik

c/o The Smith Firm PLLC
1011 W. 31st St. No. 504
Austin, Texas 78705

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated: January 28, 2010.

The Smith Firm PLLC
By: Travis M. Smith
Attorney for GUS R. HERZIK, JR.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of THOMAS H. MAD-DEN, Deceased, were issued on January 12, 2010, in Docket No. 09-0708-CP4, pending in the Probate Court of Williamson County, Texas, to THOMAS DAVID MADDEN, Independent Executor. The address of record is c/o Michele Dunlap, Attorney, 5910 Courtyard Dr., Ste. 105, Austin, Texas 78731. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

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MON- FRI 8AM-6PM

SAT 10-5PM OR BY APPT.

PHONE JIM AT **294-2885** UNTIL 9PM
OR 7 DAYS/WEEK FOR ANY OF THESE CARS OR FOR REPAIRS. WE CAN PROBABLY FIND WHAT YOU WANT.

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(RUNNING OR NOT) (ACCIDENTS OKAY)**



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EVEN UP TO 30 DAYS AFTER THE REPAIR!
WE DO MECHANICAL AND BODY WORK OF ALL TYPES. WE EVEN RESTORE CARS!**

continued

legal notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Dorothy M. Kirk, Deceased, were issued on January 28, 2010 in Docket No.C-1-PB-1-000039, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to Joseph H. Kirk.

Claims may be addressed in care of the Executor's attorney, as follows:

Joseph H. Kirk, Independent Executor

c/o Jennifer J. Mattingly

Attorney at Law

11782 Jollyville Rd.

Austin, Texas 78759

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 2nd day of February, 2010.

Jennifer J. Mattingly

11782 Jollyville Rd.

Austin, Texas 78759

(512) 219-4090

Attorney for the Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration of the Estate of David Barney, Deceased, were issued on January 26, 2010 in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001353, pending in Travis County Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas to Richard Thormann, Independent Administrator. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present them to Richard Thormann, Attorney at Law, 805 West 10th Street, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78701 within the time prescribed by law.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1.Janitorial Services, West Rural Community Center, Precinct 3 Office Building, North Rural Community Center, B100111-LD

Opens: February 22, 2010 @ 1:00 p.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the **2009 STREET OVERLAY PROJECT**(IFB No. **B100017-JW**), a project consisting of the construction of HMAC overlay for four (4) roadways: Brodie Lane, Fitzhugh Road, Johnny Morris Road, and Quinlan Park Road, will be received by Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, at the **Travis County Purchasing Office, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701** until **2:00 P. M. CST, Wednesday, March 3, 2010**, then publicly opened and read aloud.

Note: The Time-Date Stamp Clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office will serve as the OFFICIAL CLOCK for the purpose of verifying the date and time of receipt of bids.

Copies of plans and specifications may be obtained from the **TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING OFFICE**. A refundable deposit of **\$75.00** in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or company check payable to "Travis County" will be required for each set of bid documents that is issued. **The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calendar days of the bid opening.** Copies of plans and specifications may be viewed free of charge in the Travis County Purchasing Office. **The project manual and plans can be viewed online and downloaded at www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp.** In addition, plans and specifications will be made available for viewing free of charge at various Austin-area Plan Rooms indicated in the list below.

A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. est at the Travis County Purchasing Office Conference Room 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701.

A bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid amount will be required. Payments for completed work will be made in progressive payments with the County retaining five percent (5%) of each payment until final acceptance of the project. Payments will be made by check. A Payment Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount if the contract amount exceeds \$25,000. A Performance Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount if the contract amount exceeds \$100,000. Bidders should use unit pricing, except as provided for in the Specifications.

Historically Underutilized Businesses including Contractors, Subcontractors, and Suppliers are encouraged to participate in this project consistent with the goals of the Travis County Commissioners Court. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations, all federal, state, and local regulations for construction safety and health standards.

The successful bidder must commence work upon issuance by the County of a written Notice to Proceed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn for ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which they are opened.

CYD GRIMES

TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO ENGINEERS

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that qualification statements will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1.Professional Engineering Services for the Design of the Hamilton Pool Road Improvements, Q100091-LP
Opens: March 4, 2010 @ 2:00 p.m.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 17, 2010 @ 10:00 A.M.

Qualifications statements should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748,

Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp.

ORDINANCE NO. 1001119 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY AMENDING CHAPTER 2, SECTION 2.503 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; AMENDING THE HOURS OF OPERATION FOR A FARMER'S/ARTISAN MARKET; REQUIRING PUBLICATION OF A CAPTION OF THIS ORDINANCE; ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE; LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; AND PUBLIC NOTICE AND MEETING REQUIREMENTS.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE STATE OF TEXAS

THE COUNTY OF TRAVIS

To those indebted to or holding claims against the ESTATE OF THOMAS S. HOFF, Deceased: The undersigned Independent Executor of the Estate of Thomas S. Hoff, Deceased, of Travis County, Texas, having been granted Letters Testamentary by the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, in Probate Cause No. C-1-PB-10-000086 on February 2, 2010, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said Estate to make payment, and those having legal claims against said Estate to present them within the time prescribed by law at the address below. Dated this February 3, 2010 by Ruth L. Hoff, Independent Executor of the Estate of Thomas S. Hoff, Deceased, c/o MARILYN G. MILLER, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 917, Dripping Springs, Texas 78620.

STOR SELF STORAGE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods herein-after described and stored at Stor Self Storage locations listed below; And due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash only!

Stor Self Storage, Circle C 7401 W. Slaughter Lane Austin, TX 78739 512-394-9898

March 04, 2010 11:30 AM

Nick Zambito - Sports equipment, guitar, furniture, chairs, ladder, speakers, tools.

Stor Self Storage, 7228 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX 78746 512-306-0776

March 04, 2010 11:45 AM

Ray Roberson #201 - Planter, chair, box, dresser, plastic tub.

Ray Roberson #220 - office furniture, planters, file cabinet, computer desk, table & chairs.,

Jana Watson - Plastic tubs, boxes, small table, chairs.

Stor Self Storage 2508 W. Pecan St, Pflugerville, TX 78660 512-990-1000

March 04, 2010 12:30 PM

Steve Simik - Storage bins, computer, fishing items, luggage

Aaron Villarreal - Sectional couch corner, foosball table, baby bouncer

Heather Vanderslice -Bunk bed frame, Toshiba TV, boxes, workout machine, wooden desk

Gwenzetta Mickens - Large screen TV, chest of drawers, washing machine, mattress and bed frames

motor

cars

1993 BMW 850ci - 153k miles, 30 day warranty VERY RARE! \$8500 Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

1996 HONDA Accord LX, Green, Auto, 4 dr, 165k miles, \$3950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

1997 HONDA Civic LX 4 dr, 155k miles, FULL WARRANTY/30 day money back satisfaction special - \$3950 Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

1997 NISSAN Maxima, black, 5 sp, driveable, really strong engine and transmission, but was in an accident, worth \$5k otherwise, sacrifice for \$1250. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

1998 LEXUS SC300 Coupe. Wow what a car. Just a gorgeous classic. \$6950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

1999 HONDA ACCORD 130K, Leather, Sunroof Like New \$5988 512.258.7711

1999 MERCEDES C230 Kompressor- 168k miles, one owner, all records, silver, 4 dr, works great, beautiful interior, - \$5950. Auto Depot 9009 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2000 BMW Z3 Convertible, some cosmetic damage, BLOWOUT! New tires- \$5500. Auto Depot 9009 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2000 MERCURY MYSTIQUE 65K, Auto/Leather, V6 PWR \$3988. Call 512-258-7711

2000 VOLVO S40 (will be ready in one week) 74k miles, black on black, leather, new engine rebuild, \$5350. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2001 HONDA Civic LX 4 dr Coupe, black, auto, 103k miles (ready in one week with deposit!) One year warranty! \$4950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail. 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2001 HONDA Civic DX 2 dr coupe, black, 5 sp, 80k miles (ready in one week). One year warranty! \$5750 Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2001 MITSUBISHI SPYDER CONVERTIBLE 60K Only \$7988 Call 512-258-7711

2003 HONDA S2000 54k miles (ready in one month) beautiful car in the process of getting perfect! LOW MILES - \$12,900. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2006 FORD Mustang GT Silver, auto, RUMBLES, 102k miles, beautiful, charcoal interior, \$11,500. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail. 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2006 MERCURY MILAN 40K, 6 Cyl, Auto, Pwr \$8488. Call 512-258-7711

2006 VW JETTA

TDI Diesel, Low Miles, Only \$12,988. Call 512-285-7711

2007 NISSAN VERSA

5 Door, 40K, 1 Owner, Auto, Pwr, Like New \$11,988. Call 512-258-7711

2007 VW Rabbit- 3 dr hatch-back, 56k miles, full warranty, stick shift, beautiful, \$8950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2008 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 4 Cyl, Low Miles. \$8,988. Call 512-258-7711

2008 CHRYSLER SEBRING CONVERTIBLE 4 Cyl, Only 20K, A Steal At \$13,988. Call 512-258-7711

2008 HYUNDAI Accent GS 3 dr hatchback, 5 spd, it's my personal vehicle, brand new AC system (never had it new) 14k miles, FULL WARRANTY for 6 years! \$8500. Auto Depot 9009 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2008 TOYOTA COROLLA Auto, Air, 40K Only \$12,988 Call 512-258-7711

2009 HYUNDAI SONATA G.L.S. Sedan 12K. Only \$15,988. Call 512-258-7711

CHEVROLET EL CAMINO 1981 Run's great. Black/silver, Parked at 102 E. North Loop Blvd. \$2,400. 512-771-4376

VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 2001 2001 VW Passat GLS V6, 30V engine. 109K miles. 4 door sedan. Drk green exterior, beige interior. NO accidents. Non-smoker, VERY well-kept. Excellent exterior and interior save for two small dents on the driver's side. Wood trim, upgraded sound system CD player. Pwr windows and locks, alarm system. Regularly maintained, new water pump, new timing belt, new tires, requisite state inspections, oil changes. \$5000 FIRM, CASH ONLY. Contact Sasha at 832-876-2351.

trucks

1937 FORD Yes, 1937 Ford Rumble seat convertible. Needs total restoration (we can do it for you!), but very, very rare. Being brought back to life. \$14,750. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail. 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

1997 HONDA Accord LX, 5 sp, Maroon in color, ALL SERVICE RECORDS, ONE OWNER, FULL WARRANTY!-- \$4250 Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail. 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

SUV's

2003 FORD EXPEDITION XLT 4x4, 150K, 1 Owner, Leather, PWR, 3rd Seat, Excellent. \$9988. 512-258-7711

2006 FORD EXPLORER

Eddie Bauer 6 Cyl, Low Miles Only \$18,988. Call 512-258-7711

2006 MERCURY

MONTEREY VAN 7 Pass Van Only 25K! Only \$14,988. Call 512-258-7711

2007 KIA SORRENTO EX SUV, 6 Cyl, Only 20K. \$15,988 512-258-7711

FORD BRONCO 1996 The last year this vintage Bronco 4x4 was manufactured. White exterior, tan interior. 2nd owner Loaded: electric windows, el. rear window, door locks, mirrors, ABS, AC, 4 wheel drive, low range, 302 - 5 Liter V8. No accident ever, great condition, no rust on underbody, regular oil changes every 3k miles, drives great (rear gear needs some repair). 512-847-0809, em@icom-design.com

repairs

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easy street


HOT MAMMA

I am inexperienced in the whole SnM thing and am looking for someone to explor this fantasy with. I have read the Ann Rice "Sleeping Beauty" bad girl seeking master. **Madison**, 30,  **#132440**

WARM APPLE PIE

lets see what happens.. **jade99**, 30,  **#132306**


TASTES LIKE CANDY

Still haven't found what I am looking for. **tasteslikecandy**, 46,  **#132022**

WET AND HORNY

looking for dominate much much oloder male 50 plus for discreet en counters. Loved to be spanked and teased. **hotneasy**, 24, **#131716**


SENSUAL KISSER LOVER

I am a 37 year old woman who wants nothing more than to spend time with someone that I can call on when I want it! I am pretty simple... **boytoywanter**, 37,  **#131255**


ORGASM?

I have many fantasies. I want you to teach me and tell me how.23 years old, 5'4", 110 lbs, very cute and willing. **LittleLady**, 24, **#131233**


SUBMISSIVE SEEKS MASTER

I'm 26 years old and love being a submissive to a knowledgeable Dominant male. I am untrained but have enough brains to know how to respect my Dom/Master. **kinkyken-dra69**, 26,  **#131116**


SENSUAL IRISH EYES

I am a very sensual, uninhibited ,hedonistic woman!! love sex.I love men,singly and plurally.I write erotica, and I'm damn good at it! Meeting people and learning new things,I'm an adventurous free spirit. **irisheyes417**, 52,  **#130532**

SUB, SHY, SWEET.

I'm witty, charming, and shy, and Gemini. I love learning and having fun. I am looking for a dominant, clever, and affectionate man to be-friend and maybe more. **Willow1113**, 18,  **#129849**


MAYBE SOMETHING MORE

I am not a thin, perfect Barbie type. I'm looking for an attractive M 25-36 who can keep up. **litred**, 32,  **#128782**


FUN LOVING

looking to have a good time...FUN!! **jccc**, 35, **#127045**


IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS

I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored. **austinpar-tyguri1985**, 24,  **#119045**


DOMS SEEK PLAYMATES

We are a Dom couple who are looking for a sub female or a sub couple. We are bi switch and prefer to Dom. **Atdomx2**, 34,  **#132366**


YOU MAKES THREE

Couple seeking another female for some discreet fun. We're open minded but looking for the right person. Him - 31, fit,dm, and her - 39, average/curvy, sub/vers. **hisnher**, 33,  **#131257**


OPEN-MINDED, SEXY COUPLE

We are a happily married couple that loves to meet new people and make friends! We always play together and never force chemistry. Feel free to ask any questions. **curiousbikers**, 27,  **#131117**


ADVENTURE SEEKERS

We're an attractive, committed couple interested in meeting similar couples or select singles. We're safe, sane, fun, and drama-free. If you're both bi (or at least curious) that's a plus. **PairofAces**, 29,  **#131110**


SEXKITTEN & ROCKGOD

Sexy, young couple seeking first 3way. Me: tall, blonde, slender, great in bed. Him: equally hot/long hair and tats. **CattieBrie27**, 27,  **#130620**


HOT MARRIED CHICK

Hi! We're a couple looking for hot guys, pretty women and good looking couples to have fun and games with. roleplay, domination, submission, "cheating" and more. No strings allowed, thanx. **anya**, 34,  **#128804**


BLOW YOUR MIND

She is young, tight & in great shape! He has a HUGE one! **mred360**, 32,  **#127900**


B OUR PLAYMATE

Couple looking for playmates to play and enjoy one another. Just friends with benefits, no attachments. Just sex, and more sex. **newbies**, 37,  **#127079**


FIRST TIME COUPLE

we are a couple in love but wanting to expand our sexual pleasures. this would be our first time but we are very open minded. Couples or females only. **080764**, 45,  **#124403**

SENSUALCPLSEEKING SPICE

We are a committed middle-aged couple interested in experienting with like-minded individuals/couples to add spice to our hot lovemaking. If the words discreet, sensual, erotic, passionate, imaginative, fun interest you, contact us. **garf5848**, 50,  **#123217**


WANT TO SHARE

We have an awesome relationship and sex life- and we wanna include you in it! Looking for a third to join us and make things more adventurous... **iris_and_jack**, 37,  **#122165**


SHY BICURIOS

I am a shy female looking for more experienced females to teach me some things. I would like someone that can satisfy me and teach me how to satisfy them. **dixiechicken**, 32, **#132193**


SENSUAL, PLEASURE LOVING

Looking for some friends to just hang out and watch a movie or do something a little more enjoyable.. Love sensual touch but also like biting sometimes too. RAWWWW~. **Thmper**, 37,  **#132137**


FEMALE FOR ME

Married Hispanic BiFemale, 34 looking for BiFemale for fun encounters. Let's get together for drinks and see what happens? **femaleforme**, 34,  **#131835**


A WET TREAT

I am 28,sexy and looking for someone who knows how to use their hands and mouth well. Let's see how juicy I can get!!! **austinkristal**, 28,  **#131787**


CUTE AS BUTTON!

I am an attached extremely feminine Hispanic female seeking either Hispanic or Caucasian females (FWB) (Preferably FEM) Females for some discreet fun. HOpe to hear from you! **Alyssap**, 31,  **#131732**

WET AND JUICY

I am interesting in trying a women and man. I am a BF who is married and my husband is boring. Couple should be either black or latino and fun. **nadttoo**, 38,  **#132478**

FEMALE SEEKING COUPLE

Single female looking to add adventure in my life & definitely try new things! Have always been curious/interested in doing naughty things with a hot couple. Any takers?! **browneyedgrl85**, 25,  **#132264**

LOOKING FOR GROUP

Looking for transvestite or sexy couple to share a sexy night of passion with. Up for anything and eager for new experiences! **sexykittylover**, 20, **#131664**


PLAYMATE(S) FOR ASIANBEAUTY

AsianBeauty seeks Erotic Play with Woman or Man;couples considered. I'm very open-minded,feel free to suggest your sexual fantasies. Only Inquire if you're STD-Free. **Asian-Orchid**, 24,  **#131487**


CURIOUS

bicurious female seeking other bicurious female. Be friendly, clean, attractive, honest. **maryjane88**, 21, **#130521**


MANPLEASURER

Love men of all types...just want to do whatever makes you moan with joy...! **OverEasy**, 29,  **#131200**


SUBMISSIVE SEEKING TOP

I am looking for dominant top, eager and willing to dominate me. He might have to put up with scheduling problems. I am in relationship. Day-time encounters might be necessary. **volcano**, 49,  **#127424**


HOTGUY LOOKING FOR

Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discreet encounter and a relationship with a Top guy. I am discreet Open to new things with guys around my age or younger.46yrs. **antonio_3638**, 45,  **#118402**


LOOKING FOR FUN

Looking for no strings fun and wanting to explore. Am a little bi-curious. **Tgun**, 38,  **#131470**


3SOMES

Any couples or single females wanting a well Hung guy to join in on the fun? Discreet,clean,& able to go multiple rounds. 6'3 green eyes brown hair 8c ddf. **up4almostanythingg**, 29,  **#116083**


CROSSDRESER FOR FUN

Hi, I'm a CD and I am looking to meet other CD's, men, or couples for discrete encounters. I particularly love other CD's. I love porn. **alex_boycd**, 33,  **#132503**


BLONDE T-GIRL TOP

Hot Blonde T-girl likes to "Dance and Prance". Seeking Hot "Athletic Model" type boys to work the Floor with. I like Muscles or lean. You will like All of me. **BlondeHottie**, 35,  **#101055**


INSATIABLE FOR ONGOING

How to narrow it down? Old but not too old, punk and not rocker, chords and not solos, multiple times in one evening! Open to more if chemistry is right. **mrnicecock**, 41,  **#132504**


LOVE? LUST? LUBE.

Me: dominant, playful, sexy, fun, funny, intelligent, witty, well-read, adventurous, creative, openminded. You: smart, sexy, pretty, funny, orgasmic, kinky, submissive, interesting, imaginative, confident. Write me. **stophammertime**, 48,  **#132502**


THEEXPLORER

well kept and built, intellegent dis-trict and secured, looking for some fun exploration of all types. Some experience to teach yet still enough to explore... Light to moderate intensity... **gary22**, 55,  **#132496**

SEEKING TO PLEASE

Looking for a dominant partner in a safe, sensual and sane regular get together that won't interrupt our daily lives, but provides the spice that makes the week shine. **LifeOnPaper**, 27,  **#132453**

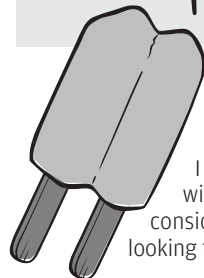
HUNGNOTH512

I am looking for sexy, uninhibited people who want to explore their desires and fantasies. into all kinds of kinky SAFE fun I am attached and looking for descreet encounters. **sandsagendsage**, 31,  **#132375**

free!

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austinchronicle.com/easystreet



Flavor of the Week

alex_boycd Age: 33
Crossdreser for fun

I am looking to dress up and have some fun with folks, who are seriously respectful, nice, considerate and discrete. after all we are all just looking to have some fun? right? so lets get a bottle of wine, dress up have a few laughs and have some real fun together.

read the rest of **ALEX_BOYCD's** profile or enter your own profile for **FREE** online at austinchronicle.com/easystreet



GET ON THE LIST & GET THE LUV DOC ALL UP IN YOUR INBOX EVERY WEEK

austinchronicle.com/luvdoclist

It's still not too late to break up with your significant other in order to avoid dropping a lot of coin on a Valentine's present. In these tough economic times, buying lavish gifts that symbolize your love seems a bit irresponsible when you could just write a haiku or maybe shave off your ironic Rip Van Winkle beard. Yes, your girlfriend may say you look like Devendra Banhart, but that's just love putting lipstick on a pig. Deep in her heart she'd like to wrestle you to the ground and shear you like a cashmere goat. Think of it this way: Would you like it if her cooch looked like Moses? And no, it wouldn't help if she paired it with skinny jeans, a dirty canvas messenger bag, and some really thin-soled shoes. If you absolutely insist on walking around with a ZZ Top soundtrack playing

The Luv Doc

Dudley & Bob's Pleasure Fest • Fri., Feb. 12

8pm • Aces Lounge • 222 E. Sixth

www.klbfm.com/promos/pleasurefest.aspx


LaMontagne/Michael Buble/James Blunt mix CD. Even if she despises them as much as you do, she will at least give you props for suffering through the selection process, although in the end you might feel less emasculated by shaving the beard. If you're really broke and need to hit a home run, you could go for the grand gesture. Of course the key to the grand gesture is to think big. Standing under the window holding a jam box blaring Peter Gabriel is a bit cliché, but if you're a paint-by-numbers type, it's not a bad way to go. Merely the fact that you're willing to piss off all her neighbors with such an embarrassingly unoriginal stunt has to be worth something. Plus, she will surely be intrigued by whether or not you had to strangle a homeless person to score a jam box. If you're an adrenaline junkie, nothing says love like spray paint on the side of a water tower. Ideally, you'll want to save time by painting a heart symbol with an apostrophe "S" rather than spelling out the actual verb. The apostrophe will let her know that even though you're an idiot, you're not stupid. If you're feeling a lot of anxiety about what to get your boyfriend/husband for Valentine's Day, don't. The greatest gift you can give him is an outright denial that Valentine's Day is a valid holiday to begin with. If you can't muster that kind of resolve, there is always plan B, which involves an act of selflessness and a five-minute time slot on your day planner. If you want to throw in some candy hearts, that's sweet, but otherwise, Valentine's Day accomplished. This isn't rocket science. It's easy enough to figure out how to handle the dude side of the Valentine's equation, but it can be maddeningly frustrating to figure out what a girl wants. What you might see as thoughtfully sexy underwear, she might see as an implication that she is a low-rent whore. On the other hand, you would be foolish to assume you can buy her something practical for V-Day ... like a vacuum cleaner or a 36-piece ratchet set. She'll just point at you and say she already has a tool. If you're going to be wrong (and there's about a 50% chance you will be), you might as well be wrong in a way that might turn out right. To help you in this awkward endeavor, the *KLBJ Dudley & Bob Morning Show* is hosting Pleasure Fest, an evening of adult-themed activities and products that will surely offer a variety of ideas on how to either make or ruin your Valentine's Day. Besides, if you're dumb enough to buy her a tool, it might as well be something she can use.

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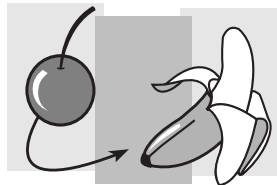
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[austinchronicle.com/
loverslane](http://austinchronicle.com/loverslane)



FUNNY BEAUTIFUL BIG-HEARTED

I love to laugh and sing. I absolutely adore music and movies, and cannot live without them. I love getting to know people, and always love a new adventure. **tessbrigida**, 19, #132501

MOVIE GEEK GIRL

I'm a journalist, brand new to town. I'm not sure who or what I'm looking for. And that's both electrifying and terrifying, at once. Loves movies, baking, writing and driving. **Maudie**, 26, #132469

HERE'S MY HEADLINE

Me? Content in my own skin. New decade = new things, like this ad. Looking to expand social horizons, and meet genuine people. You? Kind, witty, searching, fun, and intelligent. **keytosimplicity**, 29, #132328

ACROBAT SEEKS LIONTAMER

Oftentimes, people tell me I'm crazy. I don't really see it but it's been pointed out to me. I am looking for someone intelligent, funny, & thoughtful. **sassy-fras77**, 32, #124385

I'M REAL CUTE

I'm real cute and real god damn weird. I value truth and beauty above all else. More than anything I'm looking for a solid friend. **rockettcollins**, 19, #131030

SOAKING UP AUSTIN!!

Still Fairly new to the area. Not sure what I am looking for here. Send me a message and I will tell you more. **NickiLynn**, 24, #132431

...LET'S JUST SEE...

I'm fun-loving & vivacious, independent & happy. Looking for a strong, sensitive man that has zest for life and a grand smile. Be kind, generous and funny! **Tatie**, 25, #132400

SILLY ARTSY AUSTINATIVE

Creative, easy-going, likes to laugh. Passionate about the arts, design, learning new things, the environment/"saving the world", traveling to new places... Looking for somebody appreciating and wanting the same. **shellebelle**, 34, #132112

CREATIVE INTELLIGENT WOMAN

I am an intelligent, funny, romantic who likes to travel, I love my job and have a good life. I would like to find a gentleman who also loves life. **austinsberry**, 52, #132200

many more ads online!
austinchronicle.com/loverslane

CAMPING

Typical woman needs camping buddy. Someone, who won't nag me when I am connecting to a tree and yet is there when I need to be rescued. **iamevil**, 28, #132267

PARTNER IN CRIME

Want to meet someone who shares my interests: hiking, biking, live music, traveling, cooking, reading, etc. Looking for someone who knows what they want and how to ask for it. **hablinka**, 26, #132257

DON'T LOOK BACK

I live my life so that I have as few regrets as possible. I think before I act, mean what I say and embrace the life I've been given. **motherpoet**, 49, #115833

NEWYORKER

Short latinredhead, with one child, native NewYorker...love romance, movies, reading, cooking and hate writing about myslef. **jusalady**, 53, #132221

I CAN

Animal and nature loving girl,who would like to meet somebody to spend some time with.No Drama,BS and Stress needed.Just be yourself and say what you mean.That's all. **oktoberkiki**, 37, #132129

STRIKING, PROVOCATIVE, CHEEKY

Porcelain skinned educator looking for a welcomed diversion. Any Joe Strummers/Lloyd Dobblers out there? I'm into intelligence, debate,obscure film references, music, and quality humans. **Red-Betty**, 35, #127053

MAUDE SEEKS HAROLD

me: artist/librarian/student/teacher. 34 year old maude seeks similar-aged/emotionally-available harold/marcel duchamp/bill hicks/beck/andrew bird/vonnegut/ with buddy holly glasses. meet me in montauk. **craftylibrarian**, 34, #132186

INTELLIGENT RED HAIR

Looking for good conversation and close encounters.Drug/ Disease free seeking same. 37 yo, needing friendly relationship with single,divorced, widowed non commitment seeking intelligent gentleman. **strawberryddd**, 38, #132165

GOOD GIRL

I am open minded, thoughtful, easy to talk to and have a sarcastic raunchy sense of humor. I am low maintenance but can get all gussied up. **Purplegirl**, 30, #132161



LIFE: COSMIC JOKE

I'm serious about my friends, our laughter, about being relaxed: highway to heaven. As far as I can tell, there is an unlimited amount of You-ness to any single person. **DeepThink**, 28, #132509

LOW MILEAGE MAN!

Special: lightly used 1968 man. Act now, and get this Corning Cookware(tm) set FREE OF CHARGE! If you don't like your new man keep the cookware as a parting gift! **cdp14tx**, 41, #117442

NO DAPPER DAN

Dirty greaser/bike mechanic with a job and a good tattoo, looking for "punk rock girl" that can fill out a sweater, Please no Fatties or Moms. **scooby**, 22, #132490

FREE BEER!

Why not? If you play your cards right, you might even get a goodnight kiss! But no hanky-panky, not on the first date, you rascal! Note: mostly not true. **hap_hazard**, 43, #132484

WITTY UNPREDICTABLE TALENT

Where one can't wait to talk or see the other person. Constant thoughts of eternal bliss. The "what ifs" and "Maybes..." converge with the "do I?"s" and "Will shes?" **CaseFace**, 27, #132467

FRED SEEKS PEGGY

I am veteran new to Austin. I enjoy hikes outdoors, reading books, and meals at diners. I want to see the Northern Lights again with someone nice. **Fred_Derry**, 46, #132452

ENTERTAINING INTELLIGENT FUNSEEKING

I want to make you laugh. I like good food and good drink. I'm looking for attractiveness both physically and mentally. Is this you? **JohnnyOnTheSpot**, 25, #132432

SEEKING AVERAGE FEMALE

Single male seeks average female for great relationship. Your looks are not as important as what's in your mind and heart. ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU BE LIBERAL-MINDED. **qewiz2468**, 48, #132428

MENSA,COUNTRY,SPIRITUAL

Honest,laid back,very smart,smartass in a friendly way, a follower of Jesus,patriotic, Love dancing/fishing in the rain,reading,RPGames,love a very wide variety of things,art,music,phylosophy,I am allergic to oxygen thieves,drama queens,rednecks and controllfreaks. **chasrick**, 45, #132420

SIMPLE,REAL, MAN.

Looking for someone to enjoy nice venues like the Paramount, One World possibly some weekend adventures. Occasional mutual physical affection would be a nice distraction. **jstsingle**, 46, #132419

SERIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC GOOFBALL

Love to laugh at silliness, strangeness, and myself. Being curious is very important, and integral to enjoying life. Love discovering something beautiful in my day. I love a great storyteller. **socofosho**, 36, #132411

I WANT YOU

Subject of movies and books alike, I have overwhelming charisma. Intelligent, funny and good looking, are words I've used to describe myself. Ready to ride around and get into trouble. **PajaroLoco**, 29, #132398

TOTAL MUSIC NERD

I'm a laid back guy who's been around the block a few times, so I don't take life too seriously. If that sounds like you, maybe we'll hit it off? **silencekit**, 20, #132387

EXPLORER BEATNIK FILMMAKER

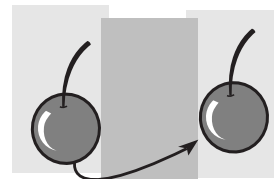
I love literature, museums, wine, film, and a wide variety of music. I part own two companies one which does design work and one which does commercial construction. **Offbeatnik**, 23, #132378

KEEP AUSTIN READING

I guess we're all supposed to just go to 6th street to meet people? Everyone there is either way too drunk or way too dressed up.. **Caramel_cod**, 26, #132371

RETIREE SEEKS TRAVELER

I am a UT Grad, who has just retired. I have lived in Germany, Spain, Hawaii, Alaska. Need a lady with a retirement check so we can travel. **Retired1**, 65, #132364



WANNA BE FRIENDS?

I haven't dated in a while and I'm ready for a change. Looking for someone fun and funny, independent and drama free who enjoys the fine art of hanging out. **NiceGirl78**, 30, #132097

SCIENCE/MUSIC NERD

I just moved here and I'm many hours away from everyone I know and love. I love learning, reading, science, playing music, making jewelry, nature, my frogs,cooking, and unplanned adventures. **velvet-goldmine**, 23, #131887

LOOK BETTER ON

im Ace. moved to austin 2 weeks ago. love to laugh. very single. college student. love coffee. im very blunt, not rude. love mexican food. looove walks. really laid back. **AceOf-Spades**, 20, #131753

ADVENTURE BECKONS

fun, genuinely funny, three-year texan seeks someone to enjoy life with. spiritual is a plus. **pleasantly-human**, 29, #131741

NEW TO TOWN

Just moved to Austin from Florida. I also just graduated nursing school. For fun I like working out when I can, watching or playing sports, movies, chilling, food, downtown. **Swoosh12101**, 23, #131567

QUEEN SEEKS COURT

Let's go skinny dipping at night under the stars and drink wine by the pale of the moon. Make me laugh, make me happy - I'll reciprocate! **brownsugarjones**, 44, #120282

NEW TO AUSTIN

Generally a really positive person, I live life to the fullest and without regrets because my mistakes have proven to be my best teachers. **juicebysarah**, 23, #131478

DINO-S-RAWR

This lovely lady is into designer jeans and thrift store T-shirts. Pizza and beer, lots of yoga and a passion for green living. Ridiculously grown-up, but total Peter Pan syndrome. **Pedalestrian**, 25, #131366

I LIKE QUESO

i don't really know what i am looking for, but i'm sure i will when i find it. **allietea**, 24, #131071

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL

I've been single now for 24yrs.I enjoy good company, conversation, a funny Pixel movie, and spending time with my granddaughter. Fall and Spring are my favorite times of the year. **Towanda**, 52, #126707



ATXGUY SEEKS ATXGUY

Typical Austin guy and then some. I like to be close enough to whisper ... **jonwayne**, 20, #132177

SMART, LOVING, LOYAL.

I am honest and very blunt. Love cuddling. Love being outdoors. Love animals and nature. If you want to know something about me ask it. **Gabe7373**, 22, #131975



Flavor of the Week

diffuseglow Age: 26
my cowboy boots aren't ironic.

Me: 26-year-old writer, comedian and grad student dedicated to the eternal pursuit of rockness in all its myriad forms. I'm kinda hip, kinda nerdy, and probably sitting across from you at the dive bar.

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NICE AND SIMPLE

Laid back guy seeks low drama situation with another guy. Enjoy hanging out with friends, margaritas, red wine, dining out. Road bike riding, 24Hour Fitness. Dog lover. Disease/smoke free here. **jodetx**, 50,  **#131890**


OPERA OR PUNK

Wait a minute... He likes Opera and punk? He likes Grindhouse and Love, Actually? He likes Chez Nous and The Salt Lick? Is fun and capable of making a commitment? **pparker**, 53,  **#131728**


LOOKING FOR LOVE

Originally from Boston. I enjoy going back east to visit family. I'm looking for someone with the same intrests, cooking, taking walks, talking about the important things in life. **It-TakesTwo**, 47,  **#131616**


NEW TO AUSTIN

Very blessed, spiritually-changed. 51 GPM ISO honest, outgoing, totally real, self-confident and self-loving gay man who wants to work hard on a friendship and relationship together. **newtoaustinguy**, 51,  **#131167**

LONELY ROMANTIC


38yo,Hispanic male , 5'6",200,br/br,very easy going and affectionate,romantic,spontaneous,ambitious,love the outdoors,travel,would like to find a guy i can spend time with and get to know and see what happens from there. **sthaustin78704**, 38,  **#130019**

SLAY MY DRAGON


A regular guy who believes in 'happily ever-after'... seeks prince in shining armor to slay the Lonely-Ness monster. **tkaustin**, 48,  **#119526**




I MAKE NOISE

just moved to austin from north carolina. would like to meet some people to go see shows with. live music, art openings, movies. **gmedia67**, 42,  **#132401**

LOVE TO LAUGH!

I love to laugh but who doesn't. I am told I have a great smile and love showing it.I enjoy watching sports, playing pool, and watching all kinds of movies. **nayzia**, 28,  **#132138**


WHY I OUGHTTA...

just moved back to austin. it's a crazy world out there. i like making people laff. hard. come have a drink and laff with me. **eweezie**, 30,  **#132049**


MUTUAL SELF ACTUALIZATION?

I hear it's safer than casual sex. **freshnessguaranteed**, 27,  **#131998**


LOOKING FOR FRIENDS

Hoping to move back to Austin. Looking to move back there. Let's have coffee and see what we like to do. Not looking for sex/dating. **hip-pyatheart**, 56,  **#131994**


SENSATIONAL, THEATRICAL, PRESENTABLE,

I love the theatre, I like moves, I am a great fan of Video Games. I like musicals. I make re-make music videos for fun and write scripts for fun. **alexcrumb**, 24,  **#131826**

A LOST FOREIGNER

Im a mellow guy that is easy to get along with.Im new to Austin and wouldnt mind having a female companion to show me what this city has to offer. **Bayborn**, 21,  **#131782**

PASSIONATE, ARTISTIC, OUTGOING

I am a major of dance and Spanish. My passions include dance, writing, & music. I enjoy riding my bike, running/jogging, and swimming. I have a crazy sense of humor. **dancer28**, 28,  **#131739**



CAZZ! I LOVE you my wee e exy bum! You put the pun in fucking! Happy Valentine's Day! - Big Stinky

DESPERATELY SEEKING SAMMI

You gave me the goon, and we froze to death at Epoch. Give me a chance to make that awkward first move blue dreads? **When: Thursday, January 28. Where: Epoch Coffee. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #904631**

PEOPLES PHARMACY PIERCED

Me: Buzzed head, pierced (eyelets), in line at peoples on s. lamar, early November. You: tall, glasses, clipped beard, salt/pepper hair, colored mohawk. Complimented my piercings. More convo/better setting? **When: Friday, November 13, 2009. Where: Peoples Pharmacy S. Lamar. You: Man. Me: Man. #904630**

ENCOUNTER AT TARGET-BY2222

Had awkward moment i wasn't sure if you were talking to me. You contact me by my username with a 1 to practically all email services. Put headline in message. **When: Saturday, January 30. Where: Target By 2222. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904629**

YO LA TENGO

me blonde guy, short beard, glasses in front row who could not stop looking at you 3 rows back you have beautiful dark hair, dark eyes, black camera - . **When: Friday, January 29. Where: Antones. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #904628**

11TH & LAVACA!

We met at the bus stop next to the Capitol today 1/29 4:45. You...from Vermont and no coat! Law School & have relatives in NC. Me too! We clicked :-)
When: Friday, January 29. Where: 11th and Lavaca Bus Stop 4:40PM. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904627

STARBUCKS 2222

Tall handsome soldier. Met at starbucks on 2222. January 6th,2010. Around 6am. Me:short brunette with glasses and UT sweater. We chatted about the cold weather. **When: Wednesday, January 6. Where: Starbucks 2222. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904626**

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsy for Feb. 12-18

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Happy Valentine's Daze, Aquarius! In my search for the counsel that would be of greatest help to your love life in the coming months, I decided on this observation by psychologist Albert Ellis: "The art of love is largely the art of persistence." I hope you take that in the spirit in which I'm offering it. It's not meant to suggest that you will be deprived of love's burning, churning pleasures; I just want to make sure you know that your best bet for experiencing burning, churning pleasures is to be dogged and devoted and disciplined in your cultivation of burning, churning pleasures.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In 2010, you will have more cosmic assistance than you've had in a long time whenever you seek to increase your experience of pleasure. Do you want to get more sensual joy out of eating and drinking and dancing and listening to music? This is your year. Do you want to heighten your perceptiveness and find more beauty in the world and cultivate new ways to stimulate positive feelings and liberating emotions? This is your year. Do you want to intensify your orgasms and have more of them and learn how to use them to enhance your spiritual power? This is your year. And the coming weeks will be one of the best times in 2010 to move from charging up your pleasure to supercharging it. Happy Valentine's Daze, Pisces!

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "Hate leaves ugly scars," wrote author Mignon McLaughlin, but "love leaves beautiful ones." If I'm reading the astrological omens correctly, Aries, you're scheduled to receive at least one of the beautiful kind of scars in the coming months - maybe even two or three. In fact, I think they'll be such lovely boo-boos that they will markedly add to your overall attractiveness. Rarely if ever have you been privileged to hurt as good as you will in 2010 - thanks to the benevolent jolts of love. Happy Valentine's Daze!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In my view, 2010 is the year you should expand your world. That could mean enlarging your circle of allies or building a bigger web of connections. It might mean broadening your appeal or widening your frame of reference or opening your mind to possibilities you've been closed to. It may even involve extending your territory or increasing the range of your travels. However you choose to expand, Taurus, I urge you to put love at the heart of your efforts. Love should be the fuel that motivates you and the reference point that ensures you're always making smart moves. For inspiration, memorize this line by poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning: "I love thee to the depth and breadth and height my soul can reach." In your case, Taurus, "thee" should mean the whole world.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Of all the signs of the zodiac, you Geminis are most likely to thrive if you experiment with new approaches to kissing in the coming weeks. To whip up your fervor, read incendiary texts like William Cane's *The Art of Kissing*. Conspire with an imaginative partner to conjure up a new kissing game or even a sacred kissing ritual. And come up with your own interpretations of the following kiss techniques: the throbbing kiss, the sip kiss, the butterfly kiss, the tiger kiss, the whispering kiss. Happy Valentine's Daze!

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Happy Valentine's Daze, Cancerian! After meditating about what advice would be most valuable for your love life in the coming months, I decided on this challenge from poet William Butler Yeats: "True love is a discipline in which each divines the secret self of the other and refuses to believe in the mere daily self." In other words, create in your imagination a detailed picture of your loved ones at their best. Each day, make it a point to feel joy and gratitude for their most excellent beauty and power - as well as the beauty and power that are still ripening and will one day appear in full bloom.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A friend of mine has woven her life together with a Leo who doesn't fully appreciate the ways she expresses her adoration. She asked me to use my bully pulpit as a horoscope writer to convey a message to her lover, and I agreed, because I think it's excellent advice for all of the Leo tribe this Valentine's season. Here's what she said: "Just because somebody doesn't always love you the way you wish they would doesn't mean they don't love you the best they can and with all they have." Are you willing to consider the possibility that maybe you should take that plea to heart, Leo? I hope so, because then you'll be able to get some of the good loving you've closed yourself off from.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Happy Valentine's Daze, Virgo! I meditated on what message might best energize your love life, and what I came up with is a declaration by author Mignon McLaughlin: "Love unlocks doors and opens windows that weren't even there before." In other words, the love you should be most interested in during the coming months is the kind that opens your eyes to sights that were previously invisible and that creates new possibilities you've barely imagined.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Happy Valentine's Daze, Libra! My astrological hunch is that you'd benefit from the specific teaching that would come from exploring a three-way relationship. But wait. Don't jump to conclusions. Here's the form I think it should take: Fantasize that the merger of you and your lover or ally has created a third thing that hovers near you, protecting and guiding the two of you. Call this third thing an angel. Or call it the soul of your connection or the inspirational force of your relationship. Or call it the special work the two of you can accomplish together. And let this magical presence be the third point of your love triangle.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Happy Valentine's Daze, Scorpio! After meditating on what advice would best serve your love life, I decided to offer you the words of psychologist Carl Jung: "The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct acting from inner necessity. The creative mind plays with the objects it loves." As I see it, my dear, acting on Jung's wisdom will help you carry out your primary task in the coming months, which is to bring novel experiences and fresh perspectives to your most engaging relationship. The best way to accomplish that is not with nonstop serious talk and intense analysis, but with a generous dose of playful improvisation and experimental fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): To prepare your Valentine's horoscope, I did a lengthy meditation on your love life. I wish I could offer you a 20-page treatise on my conclusions, but there's not enough room. So instead I'll give you the single most important piece of advice I came up with: The coming week will be an excellent time for you to survey the history of your love life, starting with the first moment you ever fell in love. I mean you should actually stream the memories across your mind's eye as if you were watching a movie. Feel all the feelings roused by each scene, but also try to maintain some objectivity about it all. Watch for recurring themes. Be especially alert for unexpected insights that emerge about the past. And through it all, be wildly compassionate toward yourself and your co-stars.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "If I love you, what business is it of yours?" wrote Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Now I'm offering his words for you to use as your mantra in the coming months. Your main job, as I see it, is simply to be a lover of pretty much everything - to generate, cultivate, and express love in abundance - and not to worry about whether your love is reciprocated or how it's regarded. It's a tall order, I know - one of the most difficult assignments I've ever suggested. And yet I think you have the soul power and the crafty intelligence necessary to accomplish it. Happy Valentine's Daze, Capricorn!

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a shot in the dark

CAUGHT MY EYE...

You: dark hair, cute little dog, looking. Me: redhead, working so couldn't say hi. Looking. I saw you at top of stairs near Riverside at Auditorium Shores. Please find this. **When: Saturday, February 6. Where: Auditorium Shores. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904650**

WHOLEFOODS & BOOKPEOPLE

You: cropped black hair, black glasses, teal sweater. Saw you at WholeFoods, then BookPeople. I had a red beard and a Icelandic sweater. Let's eat and read together sometime! **When: Saturday, February 6. Where: WholeFoods and Bookpeople. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904649**

BEN GREAT OUTDOORS

You carried my dirt to my blue Prius. I was wearing a green hat with a Phish patch. I'd love to get to know the person behind those amazing eyes. **When: Sunday, February 7. Where: The Great Outdoors. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904648**

DRAUGHT HOUSE SATURDAY

You: tall, dark hair, black t-shirt and jeans. With group at picnic table on patio. The guy I was with was a friend. You and I flirted a bit...drinks? **When: Saturday, February 6. Where: Draught House. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904647**

FASHION FREAKOUT FOX

Hair/fur coat touching session. My friends swear you were hitting on me but I missed the hint. Couldn't find you to tell you hair's mating call. Still care to know? **When: Friday, February 5. Where: Mohawks. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #904646**

THISWILL DESTROY YOU

on the 15th, you were standing there undertheheater I was cold too..... maybe we can grab a cold one together? **When: Friday, January 15. Where: Emo's outside. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904632**

MCDONALD'S

Saw someone wearing purple breaking into McDonald's. Thought it was the burglar. Let's eat. You:Man. Me:Woman **When: Saturday, January 30. Where: Oltorf. You: Man. Me: Man. #904644**

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GADJO DISKO

You had to retrieve your leather and helmet from behind the chair i was occupying. You gave me your Mardi Gras beads. I would like to see your smile again. **When: Saturday, February 6. Where: Gadjo Disko. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904645**

BULGARIAN BEEFCAKE

Your inability to pronounce "th" in words like "the" is sexy. Your plight against Communism is fascinating. Your excitement for 60's garage music is cool. Motorcycle ride in our future? **When: Friday, February 5. Where: Hyde Park Gym. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904641**

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH

You: Tall, dark hair, handsome. Me: Long blonde braid, black coat, "Oh! Excuse me." Tone of your response & look in your eye, still has me smiling. Meat up again? **When: Tuesday, February 2. Where: In the Meat Dept.. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904640**

ALFREDO PASTA SAUCE

saw you at hyland circle waiting for bus. You: black hoodie, dickies and boots, with a girl, but could do better. be my Valentine, ill be your ev-

anything, mos def. **When: Thursday, February 4. Where: bus stop. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904639**

LAUNDRY

You: red hair, sweats. Went to friends for baggie. Me: put quarters in your dryer. Both: doing laundry. Want to hang out sometime? Name the laundry where we were. **When: Thursday, February 4. Where: Laundry. You: Man. Me: Man. #904638**

BAD, BEAUTIFUL JON@EAST-SIDESHOWROOM

My friends and I luv you so, You called us "tall NYbrats" and picked-

our-drinks. You came back later to make us laugh, then vanished. We have been fighting over you. **When: Sunday, January 31. Where: East-side Showroom. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904637**

I LOVE VIDEO

You: Cute in camo tee & cap. Me: Blocking traffic, blaring weird music. I noticed you noticing me in the parking lot. Coffee? Tell you what I was listening to. **When: Monday, February 1. Where: I Love Video. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904636**

WHOLE FOODS SUNDAY

Jan 31 discussing cinnamon rolls. I was ready to pay but you found your wallet and so I did not meet you, but you waved in Ford Explorer. Coffee? **When: Sunday, January 31. Where: Whole Foods North. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #904635**

WHOLE FOODS LAMAR

You: amazing tall blond, black workout clothes. Me: babbling guy in black scrubs. Took everything I had to say something-life is short. How do I see you again? Dinner? **When: Thursday, January 28. Where: Whole Foods Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904633**

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